

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1985

Libya

Statement on U.S. Charge — Responding to the U.S. charge that Libya's deployment of SAM-5 missiles is a serious escalation of the international situation, a People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison statement carried on Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio (VOGAH) maintained that the U.S. "disturbance" over the missiles "openly exposes America's intentions toward Libya." The statement warned that, if U.S. "aggression toward the Arab nation" and its "threat" toward Libya continue, there will be "no alternative but to transfer the battle to inside America."

Tripartite Meeting

A joint communique on the 21-22 December Syrian-Iranian-Libyan meeting in Tripoli emphasized that the "conflict with the Zionist enemy" is the central issue in the Arab and Muslim struggle. In the communique broadcast by Damascus radio, the three countries stressed that a nation's stand on that issue is the basic criterion for their assessment of relations with that nation. Commenting on the meeting, Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki revealed that Israel's restoration of relations with African countries will be raised by Syria and Libya with the Arab League and by Iran and Libya at the next ICO meeting, VOGAH reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi General Command communiqués carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced a 21 December air attack on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast and a "successful" 20 December air strike against Khark Island. An INA report citing "informed oil sources" claimed that Iraqi air strikes have caused a suspension of oil exports from Khark Island since 16 December.

Lebanon

An Israeli "network" was discovered in West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that the group monitors Syrian movements in the south and was involved in "recent events" in West Beirut. A Beirut radio report on the Israeli "sabotage network" asserted that arrested members of the group have confessed to involvement in bombings that killed 121 people and wounded 473.

On tripartite agreement developments, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri disclosed that he and Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt adhere to the original text of the agreement and that they regard the Lebanese Forces' amendments as a "hindrance" to the agreement, Beirut radio reported.

Israel

The current deployment of Syrian SAM-2's creates a "new situation" for Israeli reconnaissance and operational flights over terrorist targets in Lebanon thereby constituting a "potential for an escalation," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned in an interview on Jerusalem television. Rabin affirmed, however, that the missiles will not deter Israel from doing what it thinks is "warranted" in Lebanon. On relations with Egypt, *HA'ARETZ* cited senior government sources as saying that a message sent from Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak "last week" contained further explanations on the Tabah issue and that the message, which was received with "satisfaction," might serve as a "substitute for another round of talks."

Jordanian-Syrian Summit Meeting

Radio Monte Carlo, citing a "ranking Jordanian official," revealed that the anticipated meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Damascus at the "end" of December. Monitored Jordanian and Syrian media have neither confirmed nor denied the report.

Sudan

The People's Armed Forces will not allow the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement delegation to have a military escort from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) when it comes to Khartoum to participate in the constitutional conference preparations, Chief of Staff General Muhammad Tawfiq said in a statement published by *AL-AYYAM* and cited by SUNA.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian Defense Minister Salaheddine Baly announced to the Chamber of Deputies that the National Defense Council will be "activated" as part of a "comprehensive defense plan," Tunis radio reported. The minister linked the implementation of the plan to the "continuing threats from the Libyan regime."

As for developments in Algeria, the trial of the 40 defendants in the "Ben Chennour affair" began 21 December, Algiers radio announced, noting that the charges include offenses against the integrity of national territory and organizing a movement for insurrection. A Rabat radio report on the trial described the accused as "supporters" of former Algerian President Ahmed ben Bella.

Kuwait

The defense minister's office announced that the Soviet deputy defense minister's visit, originally scheduled to begin 21 December, will take place "sometime during January," KUNA reported.

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'Arafat Accuses Syria on Achille Lauro Hijacking*LD201548 Kuwait KUNA in English 1235 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] Paris, Dec 20 (KUNA) — Peace in the Middle-East cannot be achieved without the Palestinians and without the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole representative of the Palestinian people, affirmed the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

In an interview published Friday by *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS* newspaper, 'Arafat said that "Any attempt at settling the Middle-East problem without recognising the legitimate rights of the five million Palestinians is doomed to fail."

He believed that the Jordan-Syrian rapprochement was not a threat to the PLO.

"I am not worried and I trust King Husayn of Jordan because the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of February 1985 is a good means to give a new impetus to the peace process," 'Arafat added.

Questioned about his statement in Cairo condemning terrorism, the PLO chairman indicated that what he said in the Egyptian capital, in the presence of his friend President Husni Mubarak, was the "official line of the Palestinian resistance which condemns terrorism."

'Arafat underlined that it was the PLO and the Palestinian people who are the main victims of terrorism, referring notably to the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps, the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the assassinations of PLO representatives abroad.

Referring to the affair of the *Achille Lauro*, the Italian cruise liner hijacked last October by a commando claiming to be members of the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF), the PLO leader accused the Syrian intelligence service of engineering the whole operation in an attempt to injure the credibility of the PLO.

As for the PLF responsibility in the affair, 'Arafat explained that the PLF was a small movement divided into three or four branches, of which the one led by Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], accused of masterminding the whole operation, has remained loyal to the PLO.

But the two or three other groups have given allegiance to the Syrian and Libyan regimes, and Syria could have manipulated a few members of these groups to carry out the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro*, he said.

According to 'Arafat, the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* was aimed at mobilizing international attention to make them forget the Israeli raid, on October 1st, on the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the death of scores of innocent civilians.

PLO, Syria Reportedly Seek To Settle Differences*NC231340 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 23 (AFP) — Direct contacts have begun between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria

to try and eliminate their differences, leading PLO official Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said in an interview that appeared here today in the daily *AL-KHALIJ*.

Syria for some years has supported dissident Palestinian groups opposed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu Iyad is a member of the central committee of Fatah, the largest single PLO group, also headed by Mr 'Arafat

Abu Iyad told the United Arab Emirates paper that "inter-Palestinian reconciliation" would be achieved through "Palestinian-Syrian rapprochement."

The PLO Central Council had appealed last month for a meeting of all Syrian-backed Palestinian groups.

Arab League on Resumption of Ivorian-Israeli Ties*AB210932 Paris AFP in French 0730 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Tunis, 21 Dec (AFP) — The Arab League has expressed its "great regret" at the normalization of the relations between Ivory Coast and Israel which were broken in 1973. The League affirms that this decision brings into question "obligations and agreements endorsed" by the Arab and African communities.

"At a time when Arab and African states, more than ever before, need to strengthen their cooperation and to further coordinate their actions in the struggle against apartheid and Zionism," the Arab League expresses "astonishment" that Ivory Coast should resume its ties with Israel, a communique issued in Tunis last night said.

While it reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty of all states, the organization recalls that African countries broke relations with Israel because they were convinced that the cooperation between the Jewish state and South Africa threatened the stability of all African states and strengthened "the aggressive policy of the Pretoria regime against the South African and the Namibian patriots."

Finally, the communique assures that Arab states "will not deviate from their principles" and will not withdraw their support and assistance to the "cause of the people" of southern Africa.

'Arafat Meets Jordan's Al-Majali in Tunis 21 Dec*JN220720 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Dec 85 p 1*

[Text] Tunis — PETRA — 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, deputy prime minister and minister of education, yesterday visited PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis to enquire about his health. In a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Majali said that they discussed issues related to the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting scheduled to take place within the coming days. Talks also dealt with new Arab developments and issues concerning the Palestinian issue.

Fatah's Khalaf Interviewed by AL-HAWADITH*PM201609 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic**13 Dec 85 pp 32,34*

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, with unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: Some 10 months since signing the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which was the subject of contradictory interpretations by the Palestinian and the Jordanian sides, can you tell us how do you view it now?

Abu Iyad: I believe that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was at a certain stage the object of much mutual Jordanian-Palestinian doubts despite the new relations and the contacts and dialogues. There was fear on the Jordanian side that the agreement would not last. On the opposite [Palestinian] side there were many who had reservations, including myself. This was because of the question of confidence. The question was: Will the agreement stand as it is or will further demands for making concessions be made at a future stage? This was a source of fear from many Palestinians. But in my view the agreement stood because, as doubts decreased, confidence increased. This was the situation until the Italian ship and the Larnaca [shooting of three Israelis] incidents occurred and the London meeting [between PLO representatives and the British Government] failed. These incidents have in one way or another decreased confidence and increased doubts. There are some people who claim that the Larnaca incident was perpetrated in order to undermine King Husayn's talks in Washington.

On the Palestinian level there are those who believe that undermining the London meeting was part of the U.S.-Israeli campaign against the PLO to portray it as a terrorist, but the two [Jordanian and Palestinian] sides have overcome this doubt. However, just now things have returned to square one in that there is no mutual confidence and mutual trust. I believe that what is needed is frank talks whose aim should not be to obtain more Palestinian concessions, nor should there be doubts on the Jordanian or the Palestinian side.

Only in such conditions can the agreement survive — on the basis of both Palestinian and Jordanian principles. There should be no trading of concessions from time to time.

AL-HAWADITH: You speak about no more Palestinian concessions... What were the Palestinian concessions that the PLO has made?

Abu Iyad: In actual fact there are Palestinian concessions in the agreement. First of all there is no provision for an independent Palestinian state. Secondly, while the PNC resolutions do not provide for participation in representation, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement does provide for such representation.

Thirdly, the principle of peace in return for land does represent a Palestinian concession since they [not further specified] are now talking about Resolutions 242 and 338. I regard this as a kind of blackmail. In the first article in the agreement there is the question of peace in return for land in accordance with Security

Council resolutions, which include Resolutions 242 and 338. This represents a concession, although not at the expense of Palestinian principles. But there is always the fear of further concessions.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe now that relations between Jordan and the PLO are linked to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

Abu Iyad: We should accustom ourselves to respect agreements. I, for example, have reservations about the agreement but I respect the Central Committee's decision. Respecting the agreement should be mutual. Many people tell us is that the improvement of Jordanian-Syrian relations is at the expense of the agreement. But if such agreements are shaken by a meeting between two countries, relations then will be fragile. We in the Central Committee have disagreed over the agreement whereas the PNC was precise. It said that distinguished relations should exist between the Palestinian and Jordanian people regardless of whether there is an agreement or not. Therefore, I consider the agreement as a factor strengthening the Jordanian-Palestinian relations but not as its base.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion regarding the effect of the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement on these relations?

Abu Iyad: Such relations should in no way be shaken by any move taken by Jordan or the PLO. At the Casablanca conference which decided to set up two committees to clear the air between Jordan and Syria, Iraq and Syria, and Libya and the PLO, we were party to those resolutions and we have no fear nor were we alarmed by the improvement of these relations.

But the new or the surprising factor in this is King Husayn's message to [Prime Minister] Zayd al-Rifa'i. Of course, this is an internal matter and the king is free to say what he wants. He knows why the message was addressed and why it was addressed in this manner. But as an observer I have the right to interpret why the message came in the manner it did since it was made public and therefore subject to analysis. The message has created the impression that the king is proceeding toward relations between Jordan and Syria that signify more than just clearing the air between the two countries.

For this reason there are many imminent changes. These are not supposed to affect the relations with the PLO. For this reason I would say that the wagering now is on Jordan.

AL-HAWADITH: What are you expecting?

Abu Iyad: I am not an astrologer. But I can say that I am confident that what happened at the PNC meeting [in Amman] both on the official and popular levels was the first time that the September chapter was turned over in the interest of both Jordan and the Palestinians. Therefore, any attempt to strike at this relationship will be at the expense of a common cause, bearing in mind that neither Jordan, nor King Husayn, or the PLO, or Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] or any of us has an interest in returning to the state of tension that existed before. Even if we disagree, we should agree.

Disagreement is natural since we and Jordan cannot have one and the same policy. Even we who are in the same organization and the same movement disagree among ourselves. Then how can we not disagree with Egypt or Jordan?

AL-HAWADITH: The Syrian circles say that Abu 'Ammar has offered President al-Asad canceling the Jordanian-Palestinian accord in return for the restoration of the Syrian-Palestinian relations which shows him as if he were offering the agreement as a price for the restoration of the Syrian-Palestinian relations. How true is this?

Abu Iyad: This is absolutely false. But this would show the observer how the plan to strike at the PLO is continuing. This is would be a very mean action which we will never commit.

AL-HAWADITH: But Yasir 'Arafat often declared that he is willing to go to Syria if President al-Asad agrees to receive him.

Abu Iyad: We were not the ones to initiate the battle with Syria. The PLO is anxious to establish relations with all the Arab regimes. But the question that comes to the fore is: What is the price for relations with Syria? Is the PLO prepared to pay such a price? I still believe that the plan is not to win over Yasir 'Arafat but to fight the PLO and to destroy it.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you evaluate the current PLO's relations with the Soviet Union?

Abu Iyad: There is a certain strain in these relations because of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which the Soviet Union thought would lead to direct negotiations with Israel and, therefore, to a separate solution. The Soviets consider a comprehensive solution as the best solution, while the United States and Israel are trying to fragment the solution at the Arabs' expense.

But following the development of events and after the Rabat summit resolution considering an international conference as the basis of any solution and after the Soviets realized the PLO's role in the adoption of this resolution, the Soviets began to see the picture clearly. It confirmed to them that there will be no direct negotiations. We felt this during my visit to the Soviet Union as well as during the visit of Brothers Abu Al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

Also, the Tunis strike [attack on PLO headquarters] had a clear positive effect on the relations with the Soviet Union in that the attack sought to strike at Abu 'Ammar and the political solution he is working for. Otherwise, if this move [Abu 'Ammar's search for a political solution] was satisfactory for the United States, the Israeli planes would not have dared to attack the PLO headquarters in Tunis. This blow was political and not military.

Recently we addressed a message to General Secretary Gorbachev before the Gorbachev-Reagan summit. Our message was clear. It stated the Palestinian rights as we see them and understand them. We are confident that the Soviet Union, whether through Brezhnev's initiative or the amended Soviet peace agreement, is concerned with the Middle East problem particularly since it is backed by the Warsaw Pact countries' resolution that supports the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish an independent state of their own and to return to their land. The resolution confirms that any international conference to solve the Middle East conflict should include the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This stand which was recently announced by Warsaw Pact countries at a special meeting to discuss the Gorbachev-Reagan summit is of major importance but, unfortunately, the Arab media ignored it.

KUWAIT

Waite, 'High Ranking' Official Discuss Hostages

GF211239 *Al-Sharīqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic*
19 Dec 85 pp 1, 21

[Report from London by Nasri Hajjaj]

[Excerpt] *AL-KHALIJ* has learned that a secret meeting was held in Geneva yesterday between Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's emissary to Beirut, and a high ranking official Kuwaiti emissary. They discussed Waite's mission, which aims to bring about the release of American and European hostages in Lebanon. The abductors of the hostages demand the release of 17 people serving various prison sentences [in Kuwait] who were convicted of carrying out acts of sabotage in return for the release of their hostages.

Waite arrived in Geneva yesterday on a visit which Lambeth Palace has shrouded in great secrecy. The official spokesman for the Church of England refused to divulge his whereabouts. She merely stated that Waite is outside Britain — but not in the Middle East — on a trip connected with his mission to effect the release of four American hostages in Beirut.

The spokesman stated to *AL-KHALIJ* that Waite will leave for Beirut on Friday, 20 December. *AL-KHALIJ* has learned that Terry Waite made a secret visit to Geneva on 3 December and met with Shaykh 'Ali al Khalifah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of oil and industry, who heads the Kuwaiti delegation to the OPEC meetings in Geneva.

USSR's Gonorov To Visit 'Sometime During Jan'

LD210823 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait 21 Dec (KUNA) — The director of the defense minister's office, Husayn Dhiyab Hasna, said today that it has been provisionally agreed between Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and the USSR ambassador to Kuwait, Pogos Akopov, that the official visit to Kuwait of the Soviet deputy defense minister, General Vladimir Gonorov, shall take place sometime during January.

USSR Envoy Meets Official of Amir's Office

LD211039 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Dec (KUNA) — The Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, Pogos Akopov, today met with Ibrahim al-Shatti, the head of the Office of the Amir. No immediate information has yet been received officially about what has taken place during the meeting.

Interior Minister on Terrorism, Foreign Workers

LD212121 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1653 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Dec (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has said that terrorism was

exported to Kuwait as a result of international and regional conflicts, and ideological and political differences. In an interview with the [Kuwaiti] weekly *AL-RISALAH*, to be published tomorrow, he added: We do not forbid ideas but we preserve the cohesion of society and its traditions. He stressed: If this freedom changes into counteraction that could harm the [word indistinct] spirit and goes beyond the common interest to serve personal objectives or those of foreign parties, then we shall firmly say no, a thousands times.... [ellipsis as received] so that everyone would stop there, because the country's interest is above everything else.

In reply to a question on some security incidents; some simple and others important, in Kuwait, Shaykh Nawwaf said: This is not abnormal... [ellipsis as received] it would be abnormal if there was a society without security incidents.

Regarding referring some Kuwaitis to the state security court, Shaykh Nawwaf said: Normally those who have been carrying out security incidents, particularly terrorist cases, are non-Kuwaitis. Regarding this he explained: Terrorism is exported to us as a result of ideological and political differences, and some international and regional conflicts. He added: This is not the first time we have referred people of Kuwaiti nationality to the state security court; others have done it in the past [as received].

Regarding the question of deportation, especially what is termed as tyrannical deportation, the interior minister said: Tyrannical deportation is absolutely nonexistent here. Every person who has been deported has a file here and there are legal justifications for this deportation. He said: We do not consider deportation as an act of revenge, as some people would like to say, but as an act of containment required by the supreme interest of the country in order to save our society from some flaws. He explained: Whoever does not work or has no source of income is bound to be deported.... And whoever violates the country's laws is also bound to be deported.

He added that the Kuwaiti Government is very clear in its policy, and the amir's speech to the National Assembly stated: The population composition of the country has to be reconsidered. He reminded that Kuwaitis make up 30 percent of the country's total population: There is a flaw in this and we want the number of citizen and visitors to be equal. Regarding granting permanent residence for some visitors, he said: Permanent residence is on its way; it is a matter to which the government has been giving its attention for a long time. He stressed: We shall reward the honorable with goodness. This is a country of amicability and fraternity and there is no room for hatred or ill-feeling.

He concluded saying: we are making a thorough study of the permanent residence issue. We shall make an announcement after we have finished and after it has gone through the official channels.

Kuwait Airways Planes Searched for Bombs

LD202044 Kuwait KUNA in English 2003 GMT 20 Dec 85

[By Husni Imam and Yusef al-Yaqut]

[Text] London, Dec 20 (KUNA) — Two Kuwait Airways planes

took off to Kuwait Friday after being thoroughly searched for bombs. Departure of the planes was delayed for few hours to allow airport security men conduct bomb searches due to hoax calls claiming that explosive materials were planted aboard.

A spokesman for the airport authority told the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that no explosive material was found on a Kuwait Airways airbus following an extensive search for bombs. The KAC airbus took off from London on its way to Kuwait with 182 passengers on board, the spokesman said.

Another Kuwait airways plane carrying 400 passengers was also inspected at Heathrow after receiving false information on the presence of bombs on board. The Boeing 747 which arrived here from New York on a scheduled flight was due to take off at 10:30 am local time when the airport authority received the call.

QATAR

Amir Meets With Saudi Defense Minister

GF220643 Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Doha, 21 Dec (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, met with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, interior minister; and Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah al-'Attiyah, deputy commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces. During the meeting views were exchanged on issues concerning the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz left Doha following the meeting after a brief visit to Qatar.

UAE

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF220638 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH) — PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Cairo on a 2-day visit to the UAE within a tour of a number of countries in the Middle East. It is his first visit to the UAE. During the visit the PRC minister will hold talks with officials with regard to promoting relations between the PRC and the UAE in various fields, in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest. The PRC minister was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Talks Begin 22 Dec

GF221038 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Official talks between a UAE delegation, under the chairmanship of Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a PRC delegation, under Wu Xueqian, PRC member

of the State Council and foreign minister, began at the Foreign Ministry today.

The UAE delegation includes Ya'qub al-Kindi, director of the Foreign Affairs Department; Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, director of the GCC and Gulf Countries' Department; Jasim Muhammad Samhan, director of the Arab Homeland Department; and Jasim al-Husani, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry.

The PRC delegation includes Qi Huaiyuan, assistant foreign minister; Hu Changlin PRC ambassador to the UAE; and Zhu Yinglu, director of the West Asia and North African Affairs Department at the PRC Foreign Ministry; and a number of ministry officials.

Many Points of View 'Identical'

GF221424 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH) — The official talks between the UAE delegation led by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the PRC delegation led by Wu Xueqian, member of the PRC State Council and foreign minister, began in Abu Dhabi today.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry stated that both sides had comprehensively reviewed the international issues especially the issues on peace and development in the world and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. They also reviewed developments in the Middle East issue; the Iraq-Iran war; and the problems of the Third World. In a statement to WAM, the source said that the PRC foreign minister during the discussions explained the main pillars of PRC foreign policy, and which he described as an open door policy, correct and independent especially toward the Third World countries. He also reviewed the results of his tour of the Middle East region which included Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt.

The source said that during the talks Rashid 'Abdallah reviewed the basic outlines of the UAE's policy and the efforts it is making on international issues in general and the Middle East issue and the Iraq-Iran war in particular. He also explained the UAE's efforts within the GCC in order to build and develop the country in various fields.

Rashid 'Abdallah hoped that the UAE and the PRC will cooperate within the Security Council particularly since the UAE will become a nonpermanent member of the council in 1986 and 1987. The source added that the PRC foreign minister praised the UAE's policy on the Arab and Gulf levels. The PRC foreign minister said that the UAE is qualified to play a role within the GCC to end the Iraq-Iran war and to end the dispute between the two countries.

The talks also dealt with means to strengthen and expand relations between the two countries and to open new scopes of cooperation between them in the economic, cultural, and technical fields.

In conclusion, the source said that the points of view of the two sides on many issues discussed were identical.

Meets Deputy Premier*GF221947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH) — Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad received here today the PRC delegation headed by Wu Xueqian, member of the PRC State Council and foreign minister, who is currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Hu Changlin, PRC ambassador to the UAE.

Shaykh Hamdan hailed the friendship relations between the UAE and the PRC and referred to the recent visit by the PRC deputy prime minister to the UAE and the signing of the economic agreement between the two countries during that visit. He also hailed the PRC position in support of Arab issues, especially in the international organizations.

During the meeting they discussed the consolidation of relations between the two countries, especially in the economic fields, and exchanged views on the developments of the situation in the Middle East region and a number of issues of mutual concern. The PRC foreign minister hailed relations between the two countries and the cultural and agricultural progress in the UAE. He also hailed economic and trade relations between the PRC and the UAE.

Confers With Heir Apparent*GF230411 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received here today Wu Xueqian, member of the PRC State Council and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the UAE.

The audience was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of foreign affairs, and Hu Changlin, PRC ambassador to the UAE. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid praised the PRC's positive stand toward the Arab causes support of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their just struggle to regain their usurped rights. His highness affirmed the need to continue and ensure success for the efforts being made to quickly convene an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East as a means to establish peace and security in the region and settle the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the conflict in the region.

The PRC minister conveyed through Shaykh Khalifah the PRC leadership's greetings to His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The minister also extended, on behalf of the PRC Government, an invitation to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid to visit the PRC. He accepted the invitation; its date will be fixed later.

Wu Denies Sending Weapons to Iran, Iraq*LD231029 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0913 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Dec (KUNA) — Wu Xueqian, foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, stressed here today that his country has not (?supplied) Iran or Iraq with any weapons since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war. In answering a question put forward by the correspondent of KUNA during a limited press interview with the Chinese minister held at his suite at the Hilton Hotel here in Abu Dhabi, Wu Xueqian said that China is linked to both countries by friendly ties and therefore "we have taken a neutral stance since the beginning of the war."

The Chinese minister added that some Chinese contacts have taken place with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the aim of establishing diplomatic relations. He disclosed that a dialogue on this matter had taken place during the visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, to Beijing in the framework of the Arab committee of seven, which stemmed from the Fes Arab summit.

He added, "We are trying to establish these relations gradually." Stressing that there is no conflict of interests between China [words indistinct] and that "we do agree about many points concerning international issues, foremost being the Middle East problem, the issue of [words indistinct] and the issue of the Iraq-Iran war."

He pointed out that China has established diplomatic relations with 132 countries, most recently with Nicaragua. He added that there are two Arab countries, Qatar and Bahrain, with which, when conditions permit "we are ready to establish diplomatic relations.

Reportage on Visit by PRC Foreign Minister

Meets Mubarak 21 Dec

NC211012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian at the Al-Urubah Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by the PRC ambassador to Cairo, Wen Yezhan. The PRC foreign minister arrived in Cairo last Wednesday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Describes Meeting

NC211359 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian today. Following the approximately 1-hour meeting, the PRC foreign minister said he was happy to have met with President Mubarak. He expressed his appreciation, saying that the talks had been held in a very friendly and sincere atmosphere.

The PRC foreign minister added: My meeting with President Mubarak was a good opportunity for us to have a thorough discussion on a number of issues, above all on the Middle East situation. We exchanged views on ways to find a just, comprehensive, and reasonable solution to this problem.

The PRC foreign minister affirmed that Egyptian-Chinese relations are special and warm and based on mutual respect. We agreed, he said, that the leaders of the two countries should have intensive and constant contacts.

Confers With Defense Minister

NC211610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian today. Following the meeting, the PRC foreign minister said that he and Abu Ghazalah had reviewed the historic and friendly military cooperation existing between their two countries. Egyptian-PRC relations, he added, will constantly be developed with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation in all spheres, a cooperation that will serve world peace and find a solution to the Middle East problem.

Holds News Conference 21 Dec

NC212016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA) — PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has reasserted his country's support for the Arab proposal to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN supervision. In a news conference held today at the end of his visit to Egypt, Wu Xueqian emphasized that negotiation is a good way to discover a peaceful solution. The most important factor to ensure the success of such a conference

is for the Arab countries to agree on its convocation and to arrive at a unified view.

Wu Xueqian stressed the importance of PLO participation in this conference in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is also important that it take part on equal footing with the other participants. If this proposal is placed on the UN agenda, he noted, then the PRC, as a permanent member on the UN Security Council, will play a positive role vis-a-vis Arab rights. The PRC, he said, will support Arab rights and cooperate with Arab delegations to achieve them.

As to how the conference should be convened and which of the permanent members of the Security Council will attend, Wu Xueqian stated: We believe that the Arabs must first agree on this conference and then it can be held under UN supervision. The Arabs can consult with the UN secretary general on all procedures pertaining to its convocation.

Wu Xueqian affirmed that the failure to solve the Middle East problem to date is due to Israel's continued aggressive and expansionist policy, which enjoys U.S. bias and support. The PRC, he said, firmly supports the just struggle being waged by Egypt and the Arab and Palestinian people against Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. It supports their struggle to regain the occupied Arab territory and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Wu Xueqian described his visit to Egypt as extremely successful. He noted that on several of the issues discussed there were identical views. His visit to Egypt will result in the promotion of bilateral ties, he said. Relations between Egypt and the PRC, he added, are deep and distinguished. He pointed out that the PRC views Egypt as a close and very important friend. He stated that Egypt and the PRC attach great importance to promoting and expanding trade and economic ties that will serve the economic development of both countries. Economists and trade officials, he said, will exchange visits to increase trade between the two countries.

Wu Xueqian affirmed that he is happy with the meeting he had with President Husni Mubarak, as well as with his talks with Egyptian officials. He noted that the PRC has renewed its invitation to President Husni Mubarak to come for a visit. President Mubarak has accepted this invitation, and a date will be fixed through diplomatic channels. He also said that President Mubarak has extended an invitation to PRC President Li Xian-nian to visit Egypt at a time to be decided later.

Regarding military cooperation between Egypt and the PRC, Wu Xueqian said that friendship and cooperation in this area date back a long time. Referring to his meeting today with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, he reported that they had reviewed the friendly relations existing between the Egyptian and PRC Armies, as well as discussing the future of these relations. He affirmed that there was agreement to further develop these relations.

Concerning Arab-PRC relations, Wu Xueqian said that his current tour includes visits to five Arab countries. He noted that

PRC-Arab relations are traditional ones that have historical roots. During his meetings with Arab leaders, he said that he had sensed a unified position on major issues. All Arab leaders are opposed to Israel's expansionist policy and seek to establish the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, he affirmed. The PRC will always hope to see the Arab countries unite to preserve legitimate Arab rights and to safeguard [himayat] the occupied Arab territory.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Wu Xueqian said that the PRC pays great attention to the developments of this war. He expressed his country's concern about its continuation in view of the heavy losses suffered in lives and money. The PRC, he said, has exerted efforts with both countries to end this war as quickly as possible. He noted that there are Arab and Islamic countries which can play a role in influencing these two nations to end the war.

Responding to a question on PRC-U.S. relations, Wu Xueqian said that the leaders of both countries exchange visits. He described the PRC's relations with the United States as balanced, noting that they have witnessed a certain degree of development. He said, however, that there remains a great obstacle in the way of these relations; namely, the Taiwan problem. The PRC foreign minister is scheduled to leave Cairo this evening for the UAE at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to Egypt.

'Abd al-Majid Delivers Foreign Policy Statement

Says Israel 'Hampered' Peace

*NC222139 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2205 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Statement delivered by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at a meeting of the Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee of the Consultative Council on 22 December in Cairo — recorded]

[Excerpt] Honorable members of this esteemed assembly: Peace, stability, and development provide the firm foundation for Egypt's foreign policy. They constitute a unified objective conforming to the requirements of the historical stage through which we are now passing. Important events and developments directly connected with Egypt and the Middle East have occurred over the past 3 months. These events have taken place within the framework of our Arab, African, Islamic, and nonaligned affiliation.

Comprehensive peace is the determinant strategy for the course and line of Egypt's foreign policy. Egypt is fully aware that meeting the challenge to achieve peace is as significant as confronting the option of war. It truly appreciates the amount of effort, patience, and sacrifice needed to achieve peace.

Egypt's foreign policy has encountered serious obstacles during the past few months. Egyptian efforts had been making good progress toward the completion of the peace process as a result of the successful discussions between the president and political leaders in the United States, France, and EC states in September.

Then the Israeli adventure against the PLO headquarters in Tunis came. This imposed a violent challenge to the peace process and hampered the efforts being made to establish peace.

Egypt was the first to denounce and criticize this raid. The Egyptian people expressed their feelings sincerely and violently. Egyptian diplomacy used the new strength derived from these feelings to defend peace and to confront Israel with the negative effects of its military adventures. Egypt's positive response had an influence on the various centers of political and diplomatic action in safeguarding the momentum of the peace process. It was deeply appreciated and respected by all peace-loving states.

Further Details

NC221908 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that peace, stability, and development constitute the firm basis of Egypt's foreign policy.

In a statement delivered this evening to participants at a meeting of the Arab, foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee of the Consultative Council, chaired by council chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that comprehensive peace is the determinant strategy for the course and line of Egypt's foreign policy. Egypt, he emphasized, is fully aware that meeting the challenge to achieve peace is as significant as confronting the option of war. He said that Egypt will continue its efforts to achieve its goals irrespective of any obstacles and challenges it may face.

In his statement, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister referred to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. He noted that this visit refutes all the arguments and allegations raised by certain Arab parties to justify the continuation of their diplomatic estrangement from Egypt, despite the fact that their cooperation with Egypt in other fields has been increasing.

He also said that 'Arafat's visit has frustrated all the tendentious attempts to drive a wedge between Egypt and the PLO.

In his statement, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reviewed Egyptian-Jordanian relations, including the achievements made in this regard. He also reviewed Egypt's relations with Sudan, the Sultanate of Oman, and Somalia.

Regarding Egyptian-Israeli relations, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt had resumed discussions with Israel on the Tabah problem because it believed this would serve its national interests.

He reaffirmed that Egyptian-Israeli diplomatic relations would not be fully restored until a solution is found to the dispute over Tabah and progress is achieved in the peace process.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described Egypt's relations with and policy toward the European Community as energetic and vital in various fields of cooperation. The foreign minister also noted that the varied relations which link EC states to Egypt, Arab coun-

tries, Israel, and the United States permit the EC to carry out an important role; namely, to give momentum to the peace process and to urge the various parties involved to complete the march toward peace.

In his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid referred to Egypt's African, Islamic, and nonaligned efforts. He said that three important African conferences had been held in Cairo in the past 2 months. These meetings dealt with cooperation in the fields of security, information, and the environment.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt will continue to support the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa to destroy the last strongholds of colonialism and hateful racist discrimination.

Referring to the Islamic arena, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that he will lead Egypt's delegation to the annual conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states in Morocco next month. This conference, he added, will seek to achieve real Islamic solidarity and to quickly put an end to the persisting issues confronting the Islamic world, particularly the war between Iraq and Iran.

Concerning the Nonalignment Movement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that ongoing consultations and coordination among the movement's founding states are essential if the challenges imposed by the current international political reality and economic system are to be confronted during this stage. He added that Egypt will seek to coordinate fully with Zimbabwe and the other nonaligned states in order to ensure the success of the upcoming summit to be held in Harare next August.

Ministry Protests U.S. Call To Hand Over 'Arafat

GF211911 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic
20 Dec 85 p 28

[Cairo report]

[Text] *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* has learned that yesterday the Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to the U.S. Administration for an announcement by the official spokesman of the Department of State that the U.S. Department of Justice is about to call on Arab countries to hand over PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the U.S. judiciary to be tried for decreeing the assassination of the U.S. ambassador to Sudan in 1972. This charge is based on Israeli allegations that there exists a recording of 'Arafat's voice ordering the killing of the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum.

The Foreign Ministry stated that what the U.S. authorities are about to do concerning the handing over of 'Arafat is considered a hostile act directed against the Palestinian cause of which 'Arafat is a symbol. This action would undermine all the current attempts directed toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and oppose efforts designed to achieve a rapprochement of viewpoints of the sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Court Indicts Eight for Working for Libya

NC220944 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, Dec 22 (AFP) — Eight Egyptians, one of them a woman, have been committed to the Supreme Security Court on charges of working for Libya against the Egyptian Government, the court said today.

It said seven of them faced the death sentence if convicted. It did not say whether the exception was the woman, who is still at large. While theoretically possible, capital punishment is not generally applied to women in Egypt.

The rest of the accused, most of them civil servants, were arrested in March following allegations made by a fellow Egyptian working in Libya.

According to the indictment, they are charged with accepting 18,400 dollars from Libyan agents to form "clandestine cells" with the objective of toppling the Egyptian Government.

Police have uncovered several affairs threatening state security in which Libya has been implicated in past months. The most recent, in November and August, were the attempted assassination of the former Libyan Premier 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush and another exiled opponent of the Libyan regime.

Khark Island Oil Exports Stop Because of Air Raids*JN201854 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1817 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] Vienna, 20 Dec (INA) — Informed oil sources have asserted that oil exports from Iran's Khark Island have ceased since 16 December. Speaking to the INA correspondent today, the sources said that the halt in oil exports from the island is due to continuous Iraqi air raids and not severe weather conditions as the Iranian regime claims. The sources cited Japanese oil merchants as saying that the Iranian oil company had intimated that there would be a delay in loading oil from the island because of a shortage in oil supplies.

The sources noted that 6 out of 11 oil tankers that Iran bought recently have been damaged by Iraqi raids and that Iran wanted to buy new tankers to replace the ones that have become inoperative. The sources further said that a 300,000-metric ton Spanish tanker called (*Makanim*) was hit by an Iraqi missile a week ago but the Iranian regime alleged that the tanker collided with a Norwegian tanker called (*Nova*).

Communiques Issued on Latest War Operations**21-22 Dec Actions***JN221720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Communique No 2,060 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces, which are defending Iraq's pride and glory, loftily challenge the racist enemies of our nation. We are completely prepared to wipe out their remnants and foil their designs with God's help, the wisdom of our leader, and the determination of our men.

The following is a list of our activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In continuation of the destruction of the despotic Iranian rulers' resources which they use for aggression, the hero eagles of the air carried out an air raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2200 yesterday, scoring direct and effective hits. Having carried out their mission, they safely and triumphantly returned with their planes to the homeland. 2. Our formations dealt artillery blows to enemy troop concentrations and positions, inflicting on the enemy the following losses.

a. Four enemy troops were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was set on fire in the II Army Corps central sector.

b. One infantry position was destroyed and several enemy troops were hit in the III Army Corps sector east of Basrah.

c. One enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan and one infantry position was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

3. The criminal enemy forces shelled Mandali environs with long-range artillery.

4. Escaping the bloody regime ruling Iran, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units at the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1985

20-21 Dec Actions*JN211713 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Communique No 2,059 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The noble Iraqis are today proudly defending the great accomplishments of their gigantic revolution, the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

The following is our units' activities for yesterday evening and today:

In order to continue paralyzing the enemy and inflicting losses on its remnants, equipment, and hardware, our heroic formations in the operational sectors used artillery and other types of weapons to deliver concentrated strikes against enemy positions, scoring direct and effective hits.

The following are the enemy's confirmed losses:

1. One enemy soldier killed and one ammunition dump destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Basrah.

2. One infantry position destroyed and its occupants killed in the VI Army Corps sectors east of the Tigris. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

3. One excavator destroyed and one tower hit in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 December 1985

19-20 Dec Actions*JN201717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Communique No 2,058 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic fighters are continuing their glorious defense of the homeland and are always ready to confront and crush enemy remnants.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. In implementation of the great Iraqi people's decision to destroy all the means that the Iranian tyrant clique is employing against the security and sovereignty of the Iraqi people, and as an affirmation of the ability of our powerful Air Force, our brave eagles of the air, with their well-known efficiency and capability, launched a successful new strike against the Khark Island installations at 1330 [1030 GMT] today. Our eagles returned safely to the homeland after strongly pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

2. Our formations at the front opened effective artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and troop concentrations, inflicting the following losses:

a. Three enemy men were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

b. One vehicle was destroyed and one soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Basrah.

c. One tower was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

d. One infantry position and one small boat were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 Dec 1985

Ramadan Returns From Jordan, Calls Talks 'Cordial'

JN221837 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, returned here this evening at the end of a visit to Jordan during which he headed the Iraqi side to meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi higher committee ending in Amman today. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that 1986 will witness broader cooperation between Jordan and Iraq when compared with previous years. This will take place in light of the agreement on a working plan that was signed at the end of the committee meetings.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that his talks with King Husayn and Jordanian officials were held in a cordial and positive atmosphere and dealt with a host of issues, including the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Palestinian cause. He stressed that Jordanian-Iraqi relations continue to progress on the instructions of President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn. They will become unique relations and a model of what relations should be between two fraternal countries to serve the two countries' mutual interests and the Arab nation's objectives.

Comments on Syria-Jordan Relations

*JN230805 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Dec 85 p 1,2*

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — Iraq's first deputy prime minister, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, said on Sunday that the recent improvement in

Jordanian-Syrian relations has had no negative impact on the strong and brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq, and "we expect those relations to grow even stronger in 1986."

In an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES* and its sister Arab daily *AL-RAY* during his two-day visit here, Mr. Ramadan said he did not want to speculate on the possible impact on the Arab scene of full normalisation of relations between Jordan and Syria, but said the improvement in ties between Amman and Damascus "has had no negative impact on our strong and brotherly relations" with Jordan. "On the contrary, we are working with Jordan to improve our relations further, and expect the year 1986 to witness substantial growth in the volume of trade and economic exchange," said Mr. Ramadan.

The Iraqi leader disclosed that an Arab reconciliation team, which was formed at an extraordinary summit in Casablanca last August, has failed so far to achieve any steps towards reconciling Iraq with Syria. "There have been no results at all," was Mr. Ramadan's comment when asked about efforts by the committee to heal the rift between the two countries.

Differences between Iraq and Syria, which are ruled by rival wings of the Arab Ba'thist Party, stem from Syria's support of Iran in its war against Iraq. The rift also covers a number of other political issues including Syria's opposition to the leadership of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the Syrian role in Lebanon and Iraq's relations with Egypt.

Mr. Ramadan, who headed his country's team to an Arab League-sponsored reconciliation meeting with Libya in Rabat last month, denied reports that an Iraqi-Libyan rapprochement was in the offing. "Iraq maintains a principled position on relations with Libya," he said. Iraq severed diplomatic relations with Libya last June after Tripoli announced that it would sign a strategic alliance agreement with Iran.

Mr. Ramadan, who delivered a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Saturday, described his two days of talks with Jordanian officials as "very positive." He said that the year 1986 will witness a substantial growth in the volume of trade and economic exchange between the two countries. "We have also agreed that the higher Jordanian-Iraqi committee should meet once a year to follow up and review the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said that his visit to Jordan was in response to a Jordanian invitation. The visit was preceded by a visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to Iraq two weeks ago, during which he held talks with President Husayn and visited the Iraqi warfront.

Mr. Ramadan accompanied President Husayn in the Iraqi leader's [first] visit to the Soviet Union since the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980. Mr. Ramadan said that the visit was "successful" and "Iraqi-Soviet relations are developing in all fields." "But our relations with the Soviet Union are still below our expectations," he said. He did not elaborate but said that both Iraq and the Soviet Union "have identical views and evaluations of the Iranian regime and of Iran's aggressive policies."

"The Soviet Union expressed full support for Iraq's efforts to find an end to the war through peaceful negotiations," he said.

The Iraqi leader said the Soviet Union "will play a more effective role in efforts to seek an end to the war." He refused to give more details but said that the Soviet Union "knows what it could do" to contribute to peace efforts in the Gulf.

Reports from Moscow and Iraq last week said that Iraq had sought advanced Soviet weapons. Mr. Ramadan did not deny or confirm these reports but indicated that Iraq was very satisfied with the results of last week's talks concerning its needs for weapons. "The Soviet Union has become our main source of weapons and there are no problems over that issue," he said.

He said President Husayn also discussed the Palestinian question with the Soviet leadership. "The president stressed Iraq's support of the PLO, under the leadership of 'Arafat, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Mr. Ramadan said. He said that the Soviet Union will play a greater and more effective role in efforts to solve the Palestinian problem. He did not elaborate.

Baghdad has become a major location for the PLO leadership to meet and reports have suggested that the organisation will move its headquarters to the Iraqi capital. Mr. Ramadan denied any knowledge of such information. "There is no political significance for the PLO's meetings in Baghdad," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said Iraq "will not interfere in the PLO's decisions and will not try to talk the PLO into accepting United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." Iraq has never said it accepts these two resolutions, Mr. Ramadan said. "So how could we try to convince the PLO to accept something we ourselves do not accept?" he asked. Mr. Ramadan said, however, that Iraq respects the PLO's decision and "will not try to patronise the organisation."

Mr. Ramadan talked at length about his country's strategy to force Iran into ending the five-year war with Iraq. He said Iraq will continue to hit vital economic installations in Iran in order to drain the sources of the Iranian Government and force it into peace negotiations. "We do not aim at destroying Iran but we want to deprive the Iranian regime of the sources that fund its war against us," he said.

In reply to a question on the current situation in the war, Mr. Ramadan said Iran has delayed a major offensive. He outlined three reasons that, in his view, compelled the Iranians to delay the offensive.

—first, the Iranians are reconsidering their calculations after the heavy losses they have suffered;

—second, the erosion of popular support for the Iranian regime and for the war against Iraq; and

—third, the lack of a unified and decisive Arab stand in support of Iraq. "If it was not for the absence of a decisive Arab position the war would have stopped a long time ago," he said.

Mr. Ramadan, who is also the leader of the Iraqi People's Army, did not rule out an Iranian offensive in the near future.

"It is unlikely that the Iranian leaders will stop the war from which they derive their *raison d'être*," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said Iraq has no plans to take a unilateral decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. "Restoring diplomatic relations with Egypt is an Arab decision and should be done through an Arab League resolution, which should be preceded by negotiations between the Arabs and Egypt on the latter's relations with Israel," he said.

Iraq's approach to relations with Egypt as outlined by the Iraqi leader is based on intensifying contacts and cooperation, particularly in the economic field, with Egypt in order "to gradually rid Egypt from the situation it is in." Mr. Ramadan was referring to the 1979 Camp David peace accord which Iraq categorically rejects. He refused to say whether Iraq would support an Arab decision to readmit Egypt to the Arab League but stressed that "efforts to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold are not necessarily linked to the readmission of Egypt to the Arab League."

"In our view, all of us (the Arab countries) should help Egypt return to the Arab fold through strengthening relations with Egypt on a bilateral basis," he said.

On Request for 'Abbas Extradition

JN230816 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
23 Dec 85 p 18

[By Khitam Barqawi]

[Excerpts] Amman — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member, has expressed deep satisfaction with Jordanian-Iraqi relations. He said: "We do not feel alien when we visit Jordan because the relations between our countries are fraternal and excellent. In a statement to *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, Ramadan said that his recent visit to Jordan has reinforced cooperation and opened new horizons in various fields. The relationship between Jordanian and Iraqi citizens has become distinguished.

In answer to a question about Syrian-Jordanian relations, Ramadan said that they concern both countries. He pointed out that Iraq's policy is with any formula of solidarity that serves the nation's interests. Ramadan ruled out an Iraqi-Syrian meeting at this time. He said that any development in the relations between Iraq and Syria will be defined by Syria's stand on the war.

Regarding reports about a PLO headquarters move from Tunis to Baghdad, Ramadan said that this subject has not come up. In principle, Iraq is open to all Arabs. He added that this matter has not been decided by the PLO. Ramadan described the U.S. request for the extradition of Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] as very ridiculous. Ramadan praised our kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied territory and their confrontation of the Zionist occupation.

Saddam Receives Reply Cable From Soviet Leaders*JN220955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — The Soviet leadership has affirmed that Iraqi-Soviet relations will continue to progress in the interests of the two peoples. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers sent a cable to President Saddam Husayn in reply to his excellency's cable on the 68th anniversary of the October socialist revolution in which he expressed confidence that the two countries' relations, which were bolstered by the friendship and cooperation treaty, will serve general peace and world security.

The following is the text of the cable:

To His Excellency Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman and president of the Republic of Iraq.

We thank you for your warm congratulations and good wishes on the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

We join you in expressing confidence that relations between our two countries, having been bolstered by the treaty of friendship and cooperation, will continue to progress in the interests of the Soviet and Iraqi peoples and in the service of general peace and international security.

[Signed] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers.

The Kremlin, Moscow.

Ramadan: Saddam's Moscow Visit 'Very Successful'*JN221200 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] Amman, 22 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the Iraqis are ready to repulse any new aggression the Iranian regime may carry out in order to achieve its expansionist ambitions in Iraqi territories. The first deputy prime minister said that Iraq will reply strongly to all attempts aimed at halting or obstructing its march, progress, and prosperity.

During a meeting with the members of the Iraqi mission in the Iraqi Embassy in Amman today, Taha Yasin Ramadan indicated that the two brotherly countries, Iraq and Jordan, are eager to develop and bolster cooperation between them whose foundation was laid down by President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn. The first deputy prime minister described President Saddam Husayn's Moscow visit as very successful and will have an effective impact on the nature of current relations between Iraq and the USSR. Taha Yasin Ramadan was accompanied during his visit by Nuri al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

President's Secretary on Visit*JN221457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1242 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn's press secretary has described the Iraqi president's visit to the USSR as a qualitative development in Iraqi-USSR relations. In a study published by *AL-THAWRAH* here today, Hani Wahib said that this visit emphatically shows that the USSR supports settlement of the dispute between Iraq and Iran through negotiations and not the battlefield.

Hani Wahib said that the views on this visit and the conjecture and analysis that were made on it demonstrate the importance and the effectiveness of it on the national, regional, and international levels and highlights Iraq's status and the prestige its leader Saddam Husayn enjoys. Noting the great standing Saddam Husayn enjoys among the international community, Hani Wahib said: It has become evident to all that the Iraqi president tackles matters on all levels from the vantage point of a comprehensive vision and long-term strategic dimension. He dislikes tackling small matters and political dealings with a small shopkeeper's mentality whose calculations are immature and trite.

Wahib added that President Saddam Husayn does not know about bargaining and does not wager on international and regional balances of power or political opportunities emanating from such a balance which could produce results in the near term but will be frustrating in the long run.

Wahib described Iraq's international relations as unswerving and not governed by reaction and counterreaction. He stressed that Iraq's international relations are based on the concepts of equality, respect, mutual interests, and noninterference in domestic affairs. He added that relations continue insofar as possible during the circumstances of the war and its perils. This shows that the Iraqi people are determined to achieve freedom and independence.

Wahib said that President Saddam Husayn's visit to the USSR was in the interest of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the USSR and has taught a good lesson to those who view international relations from an immature viewpoint, basing them on blackmail and complete political subservience.

Joint Cooperation Talks With PRC Begin*JN211246 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA) — The third session of the Iraqi-PRC committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation began here this morning. Muhammad Fadi Husayn, minister of housing and reconstruction, headed the Iraqi side while Qian Yongchang, PRC minister of communications, headed the PRC side. The Iraqi minister praised the cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields and reviewed the objectives and dimensions of the war that the Iranian regime is waging against Iraq.

Qian Yongchang said his country is eager to pursue and consolidate economic, trade, and technical cooperation with Iraq to

serve the two friendly peoples' interests. He also stressed the need to end the war between Iraq and Iran through peaceful means.

Three subcommittees were formed to discuss trade, financial, economic, scientific, and technical relations; PRC firms' participation in several Iraqi development projects; and a review of what has been implemented from the minutes of the previous session.

The Iraqi side consists of officials from the Ministries of Irrigation, Planning, Oil, Housing and Reconstruction, and Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, as well as experts from the Iraqi Central Bank and the Foreign Economic Relations Committee. The PRC side consists of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and experts.

Muhammad Fadl Husayn received Qian Yongchang and his delegation this morning. The two sides reviewed the scope of bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting it in the sphere of housing and reconstruction. They also reviewed the implementation of several Iraqi development projects by PRC firms.

Hasan 'Ali, PRC Minister Meet

JN221058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1017 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met here today with Qian Yongchang, PRC minister of communications and head of the PRC side on the Iraqi-PRC joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. They reviewed economic and trade cooperation and means of developing this cooperation between the two countries.

Husayn, Al-Asad Reportedly To Meet at End of Month

*JN21628 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] A ranking Jordanian official who declined to be named has stated that the expected meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Damascus at the end of this month. This summit will be the first between the two leaders in 7 years.

KUNA: Jordan To Host Conference on Iran-Iraq War

LD221113 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Amman 22 Dec (KUNA) — High-level official sources have stated here today that an international conference will be held next month in the Jordanian capital to call for support for the Iraqi people and for the establishment of peace between Iraq and Iran.

These sources told a KUNA correspondent in Amman that the Jordanian Government has welcomed the holding of this conference and that arrangements and preparations are now afoot to invite world figures to take part in it, including prominent media figures. The sources added that a large number of international and regional organizations, in addition to Arab organizations and world trade union organizations, will take part in this conference, whose theme will be "A Call For Halting the Iraq-Iran War and Supporting Peace."

It is worth mentioning that the Arab labor conference held in the Iraqi capital last March recommended among the resolutions it adopted, a call for the convening of a world conference with regard to establishing peace between Iraq and Iran.

Coverage of Iraq's Ramadan Visit 21-22 Dec**Arrives, Makes Statement**

*JN211025 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Amman — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Amman today at the head of an official delegation to attend meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi higher committee. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, a number of ministers, senior Jordanian officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman received Ramadan upon arrival.

Ramadan said that he is carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother President Saddam Husayn on issues of interest to the two fraternal countries. He said his visit to Jordan comes within the framework of meetings and visits exchanged by the fraternal countries' officials on all levels to further exchange views in the interest of both countries and the Arab nation.

On the results of President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the visit was very successful and the two sides' viewpoints on various issues discussed were identical.

Regarding Iraq's call on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in preventing the Iranian regime from launching a new aggression against Iraq, Ramadan said Iraq is in continuous contact with the Security Council to inform it of any new Iranian aggression. He asserted that Iraq is capable of destroying the Iranian aggression on Iranian territory.

Begins Talks With Al-Rifa'i

*JN211455 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] The first round of talks between the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zaydi al-Rifa'i and the Iraqi side led by RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan was held at the Prime Ministry this morning. These talks are held within the framework of the two fraternal countries' joint higher committee.

Talks dealt with Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in economy, trade, agriculture, energy, transportation, communications, and irrigation. The two sides also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held by the technical committee and adopted the necessary decisions regarding the committee's recommendations.

Earlier in the day the prime minister received Taha Yasin Ramadan in his office.

Meets King, Conveys Saddam Message

*JN211636 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member, at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. Ramadan conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message dealt with the results of the Iraqi president's visit to the USSR and developments on the Iraq-Iran front. Ramadan affirmed in this regard fraternal Iraq's readiness to confront the aggression the Iranian regime is planning against Iraq and Iraq's ability to confront and crush this aggression. They also discussed a number of current issues and relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as ways of developing and bolstering these relations in order to achieve the mutual interests of the two fraternal peoples.

The meeting, interrupted by a working luncheon, was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the minister of supply, trade, and industry. It was attended on the Iraqi side by the minister of transport and communications, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Light Industries Ministry under secretary, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Signs Working Agreement

JN221703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Amman — An agreement on a working plan between Jordan and Iraq was signed at the Prime Ministry this afternoon. It was signed by Zayd al-Rifa'i, Jordanian prime minister, and by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member. Under the agreement, a higher committee will be formed by the two fraternal countries. Chaired by the Jordanian prime minister and the Iraqi first deputy prime ministers, the committee will draw up plans for future relations in all areas. A joint committee will stem from the higher committee and will be chaired by the two ministers concerned. It will be entrusted with the task of developing spheres of cooperation and following up implementation of the specialized committees' programs and work. This committee will submit its reports to the higher committee for approval.

It has also been decided that a number of branch committees will stem from the joint committee. These committees will deal with economic and trade issues as well as with industrial cooperation, energy, transportation, communications, and educational and technical cooperation. The two sides agreed that these committees will meet every 6 months.

Following the signing of the agreement, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his profound happiness at meeting with His Majesty King Husayn as well as his great satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Jordanian officials. He affirmed that the desire to hold annual meetings of the two countries' leaders indicates a sincere willingness to strengthen relations between the two fraternal countries. He added: We in Iraq pledge to our brothers in Jordan — king, government, and people — to remain loyal brothers under all circumstances and in all areas. Our relations will get stronger and closer and we will face up to our responsibilities.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i expressed similar fraternal, noble feelings and stressed that Jordan and Iraq are marching on the same path worked out by the two great leaders, King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He added: Our task is to translate the two leaders' aspirations into a tangible reality in the service of our two fraternal peoples and the entire Arab nation. I hope our blessed march will continue, God willing.

Departs Amman

JN221815 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Amman — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and RCC member Taha Yasin Ramadan left Amman for Baghdad this afternoon after a 2-day working visit to Jordan. He was accorded an official sendoff. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i led those who saw him off.

Trade Cooperation Minutes Signed With Iraq

JN221800 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Amman — 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, and Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, minister of industry and trade, today signed the minutes of the sixth session of the Jordanian-Iraqi joint ministerial committee held in Amman 19-22 December 1985. Under the minutes, cooperation will take place in the following areas:

1. Trade exchange: The two fraternal countries will increase the volume of trade exchange up to \$750 million for 1986. They will also increase the shares of commercial centers in the two countries up to 20 million dinars for each center. It has also been decided that the Iraqi side will purchase the following items from Jordan: eggs, tomato paste, vegetables for industrial purposes, natural and synthetic cotton yarn, and potash, as well as a number of Jordanian commodities included in the commodities list attached to the minutes of the joint committee's meetings held in Amman during its sixth session. Jordan imports many items from fraternal Iraq, foremost of which are sulfur, crude oil, oil byproducts, fertilizers, and dates.

2. Energy: The two fraternal countries signed a protocol on cooperation in energy. The Iraqi side agreed to extend the work of the Iraqi seismological survey team in Jordan for another 6 months.

3. Transportation and communications: The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the implementation steps taken in the area of transportation between the two countries. They agreed to conduct a comprehensive joint study to develop these relations in land, sea, and air transport.

4. Industrial cooperation: The two sides are satisfied with the serious steps taken by the board of directors of the Iraqi-Jordanian company for industry to begin its activities. The two sides also decided to endorse the technical and scientific draft agreement between the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority and the Iraqi General Metals Corporation.

5. Cooperation on agriculture and irrigation: The two sides agreed to cooperation on fish hatcheries, to expand cooperation on protective agriculture, drip irrigation, and veterinary inoculations, to protect plants, and to conduct agricultural research.

EC Commissioner Cheysson Arrives in Amman

JN201859 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Claude Cheysson, EC commissioner for dialogue affairs between north and south in the EEC, [title as heard] arrived in Amman today on a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit he will meet with senior officials to discuss recent developments in the Palestine question and EC-Jordanian relations.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i, Al-Lawzi

*JN211334 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning Claude Cheysson, EC commissioner general for dialogue affairs between north and south in the EEC [title as heard]. During the meeting they discussed the role the EEC states play in bringing about a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution in the Middle East within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council member-states.

The prime minister and Cheysson also reviewed cooperation between the EEC and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the economic, technical, and scientific fields, particularly the aid program for the forthcoming 5 years. Attending the meeting were Planning Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur and the EEC representative in Amman.

Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi also received Claude Cheysson in his office this morning. The Senate president reviewed the phases the Palestine question has passed through and what it represents to the Palestinian people in terms of an occupied homeland and legitimate rights that Israel disavows because it continuously rejects UN and Security Council resolutions. He pointed out the aggressive policy Israel is adopting in the occupied territories represented in the continuation of settlement and Judaization as well as deporting the Palestinian people from their land and confiscating their property. He stressed the importance of the sincere efforts His Majesty King Husayn is exerting in the service of the cause of peace, as well as continuous initiatives that resulted in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, an agreement that embodies the two peoples' desire to achieve a just, comprehensive peace through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties concerned including the PLO and the Security Council's permanent member-states and within the framework of establishing a confederal Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. He also pointed to the joint principles governing Jordanian-European relations and to the importance of the EC in achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The Senate president welcomed Cheysson's mission in Jordan, saying it substantiates the firm Jordanian-European relations on the economic, social, political, and parliamentary levels.

Cheysson hailed King Husayn's role and his good efforts aimed at achieving peace in the region. He also hailed what Jordan represents in terms of a pioneering experiment for development, progress, and cooperation with the EC to preserve the region's security and stability.

Planning Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur and the EC commissioner general for dialogue affairs between north and south today discussed trade, economic, and technical relations between Jordan and the EEC and ways to promote them. The planning minister affirmed the need to increase Jordanian exports of agricultural and industrial products to all EC states. He noted the major objectives and landmarks of the forthcoming 5-year development plan that the ministry is preparing, as well as the priority projects within the plan.

Meets With Crown Prince

*JN211519 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1450 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Amman, 21 Dec (PETRA) — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning Claude Cheysson, EC commissioner general for north-south relations, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting they discussed the existing cooperation relations between Jordan and the EC and ways to bolster them, particularly in industrial and agricultural cooperation and scientific, technical, and information research. They also discussed the possibility of cooperation between the EC and Jordan through joint projects in the Arab region in general.

Waite Arrives in Beirut, Reports Optimism 20 Dec*NC201514 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1505 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, arrived in Beirut at 1630 today from London to continue discussions on the fate of the U.S. hostages. Upon his arrival at Beirut International Airport, Waite said that he is optimistic about resolving this issue before the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Urges Meeting With Kidnappers*NC211438 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 21 (AFP) — Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy here, today appealed to the kidnappers of British journalist Alec Collett, 63, to get in touch with him.

Mr. Waite, who arrived here from London yesterday, made his appeal on behalf of Mr. Collett in a phone call to a foreign news agency here.

"I am here," he said. "I would like to meet face to face with the people who are holding Alec Collett and I hope they will contact me."

Mr. Waite's main mission here is to seek the release of four U.S. hostages: Journalist Terry Anderson, Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco and officials David Jacobsen and Thomas Sutherland of the American University here.

Yesterday, however, he appealed for the release of all Lebanon's kidnap victims, whatever their nationality.

A video tape of Mr. Collett appealing for help from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had reached London yesterday, sent through a Beirut newspaper by the group claiming to hold him, the Revolutionary Organisation of Moslem Socialists.

In the tape, Mr. Collett said he would be freed if Britain released a group of "Arab Moslems" held in British jails.

Mr. Collett was working for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency in southern Lebanon when he was abducted in West Beirut last March.

'Positive Results' Expected*NC211600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1525 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Terry Waite, envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, has declared that he wishes to meet with the kidnappers of British journalist Alec Collett face to face in order to learn their demands. He expressed his hope that the kidnappers will respond to this request.

Western diplomatic sources in Beirut expect that the efforts undertaken by Terry Waite to secure the release of the American hostages will lead to positive results during the holidays. Accord-

ing to these sources, U.S. diplomats have expressed a greater feeling of satisfaction than ever before. They have linked this current feeling with the recent U.S. aid provided to the southern suburb via the Interior Ministry, as well as to the serious efforts now being made to secure the release of the hostages.

AL-NAHAR Receives Video of British Hostage*NC210635 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0625 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] The newspaper *AL-NAHAR* has received a videotape in which British journalist Alec Collett, who was kidnapped in Beirut last March, is shown urging British Prime Minister Thatcher to respond to the demands made by the kidnappers — the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims. Collett urged Thatcher to release a group of detainees in Britain described by Collett as Arab Muslims.

Collet Says 'Time Short'*NC210852 Paris AFP in English 0847 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 21 (AFP) — Lebanese kidnap victim, Alec Collett, has managed to get a video message to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher pleading for her to give in to his captors' demands, a newspaper reported here today. The 63-year-old British journalist was taken hostage on March 25 in southern Lebanon where he worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

The Lebanese newspaper *AL-NAHAR* said it had received the message and yesterday passed it on to British authorities. Mr. Collett reportedly asked Mrs. Thatcher to hand over a group of Arab Moslems held in British prisons to Algeria, South Yemen, Nicaragua or Ethiopia. He said time was short for him and for the Revolutionary Organisation of Moslem Socialists, which claims to be holding him. The kidnappers wanted to end the affair, but Mrs. Thatcher had refused to give in, which Mr. Collett said was neither in his interest nor in that of the British people.

He said the kidnappers would release him to the Popular Nas-serite movement, based in Sidon, if Britain freed the Moslems. Mr. Collett, who looked tense but healthy, also appealed to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The video began with a Christmas message to his wife Helen and their children.

Negotiator for French Hostages Leaves Beirut*NC231133 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Dr Rida Ra'ad, who has been involved in negotiations with the kidnappers of the French hostages, left Beirut at noon today. At the airport, Dr Ra'ad said: My mission is completed. I have conveyed the kidnappers' demands to the French Government. The decision is now a matter for the French Government.

Fu'ad al-Turk To Discuss Ties in Moscow 7 Jan*LD231054 Kuwait KUNA in English 0959 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 23 (KUNA) — A ranking Lebanese Foreign Ministry diplomat will leave for Moscow early next month for talks with the Soviet officials that aim at establishing "strong basis" for relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union, a diplomatic source was quoted as saying here Monday.

The source was quoted by the Lebanese daily *AL-SAFIR* newspaper as saying that the director general of the ministry Fu'ad al-Turk will visit Moscow January 7.

According to the source, al-Turk will discuss in Moscow a host of issues, including means of developing bilateral relations, the situation in Lebanon and the future of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) currently deployed in south Lebanon, and Lebanon's support to the idea of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Those issues have been discussed in recent meetings between Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and Soviet charge d'affaires here Yuriy Suslikov.

Al-Jumayyil, Suslikov Comment*NC211629 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil reviewed today with the Soviet charge d'affaires in Lebanon Mr Yuriy Suslikov bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union as well as current developments on all levels. The president received the Soviet diplomat at 10:30 am and reviewed with him the subjects which will be discussed during the coming visit of the Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk to Moscow early next year.

Following the 40-minute meeting, the Soviet charge d'affaires declined to make any declaration.

Informed sources said that the atmosphere during the meeting between President al-Jumayyil and Mr Suslikov was positive and excellent and that President al-Jumayyil reviewed with the Soviet diplomat current political conditions in the light of the latest developments. Discussions also touched on bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union, as well as the visit by the secretary of the Foreign Ministry to Moscow.

Within this framework, it was reported that Mr Suslikov transmitted to President al-Jumayyil his country's welcome of the visit by Ambassador al-Turk and expressed hope that the visit be achieved as soon as possible. The date in principle has been determined early next January. It was also reported that Soviet officials are ready to discuss issues of interest to the two countries after accomplishing all the files relating to these issues.

The same sources confirmed that Ambassador al-Turk will be heading for the Soviet Union with instructions from President al-Jumayyil aimed at improving relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union and he [as heard] noted that this visit, which is

welcomed by the Soviet Union, will form a first step along the road to boosting the bilateral relations and to intensifying contacts and initiatives on the political, economic, cultural, and educational levels.

The same sources added that the discussions between President al-Jumayyil and Mr Suslikov also touched on the Lebanese internal situation in the light of the latest political moves that are related to the accord and the reform issues.

President al-Jumayyil confirmed, according to the same sources, that what is taking place in Damascus is reconciliation among the fighters and that this is a basic first step which he supports and welcomes, expressing the hope that the outcome of this reconciliation will be positive. He also voiced hope that this measure will be accomplished and that all the political parties and leaders will then participate in the formation of the future Lebanon. He praised the efforts exerted by Syrian President Hafez al-Asad in pushing ahead the accord process in Lebanon and in providing the adequate atmosphere to achieve entente among the Lebanese.

The same sources said that the discussions also focused on the situation in south Lebanon and the role of the UN forces there, in addition to the speculation made regarding the future of the UN forces in the light of the American resolution with respect to the discontinuation of the American financial subsidy to the UN forces in south Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil confirmed that putting an end to the mission of the UN forces in the south before finding an alternative is a grave adventure which might have [word indistinct] repercussions on the whole situation in the area. He asked Mr Suslikov to announce Lebanon's [as heard] position in this respect in spite of the fact that Lebanon is aware of the reserved Soviet position; namely, the position that Moscow [words indistinct] any time the issue of the renewal of the UN forces mandate in the south was discussed.

It was reported that Mr Suslikov notified President al-Jumayyil that he will soon consult with Soviet officials on this issue and will later brief him on the outcome of his consultations.

Israeli Saboteurs Arrested; Probe Underway*NC211204 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] NNA today managed to obtain information about an Israeli sabotage network. We have been informed that secret investigations on this network have been going on for days. Network members were arrested 15 days ago and handed over to Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, commander of the judicial police.

An NNA correspondent has learned that 3 of the 13-member gang have admitted that they were involved in 6 explosions, including booby-trapped cars. These took place in Beirut, southern suburb, and Sidon, the most important being the explosions in Bi'r al-'Abd, Al-Ruways, and Verdun. They also admitted that they had detonated two explosive charges in Al-Najmah Square in Sidon.

Three of the defendants made full confessions about their links with individuals collaborating with Israeli intelligence, such as Qasim Nun, nicknamed Abu 'Ali Fah, and Muhammad 'Ayn. Investigations are continuing in complete secrecy under the supervision of Col Abu Zaki.

Network Said To Number 122

*NC211257 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] It was revealed today that there is an Israeli network in West Beirut which was involved in a number of explosions in the past few days in West Beirut, the southern suburb, and Sidon. Security sources said a number of members of the network were arrested and that secret investigations are underway.

Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, commander of the judicial police, confirmed this afternoon that this information is correct. He said that 3 members of the network are being interrogated in Beirut.

Reports say that the network members in Beirut and the south total 122, and most of them carry Progressive Socialist Party cards. Some of them have fled to the mountain area. The reports add that some took part in the recent events in West Beirut while others monitored the movements of the Syrian observers in the area.

Activities Revealed

*NC212138 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] According to information revealed today, investigations being conducted under the supervision of Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, the judicial police commander, have revealed a great deal of information about the existence of an Israeli sabotage network. Certain members of this network were apprehended some 15 days ago.

Following the arrest of Shafiq Muhammad Munayminah and his son Mahmud in connection with a despicable moral crime, additional information became available to Col Abu Zaki regarding these two people. It is possible that these two men participated in terrorist operations and the detonation of booby-trapped cars and explosive devices in Beirut, the southern suburb, and Sidon.

On the basis of this information, these two people have been interrogated. It became apparent that they had been operating within a sabotage network with links to the Israeli intelligence service. They named some of their accomplices, including Qasim Najm, nicknamed Abu 'Ali Fakhuri; Mahmud 'Awdah, a Palestinian; someone known as Abu George, who used to own a bakery in Mahallat Lib'a near Sidon; and Jihad Husayn al-Turk. Al-Turk has since been arrested.

As a result of these investigations, the three people who have been arrested have confessed to participation in the following activities:

1. The detonation of a booby-trapped in Bi'r Al'abd;
2. The detonation of a booby-trapped car in Al-Raways;
3. The detonation of a booby-trapped car in Mahallat al-Tariq Al-Jadidah, behind the Imam 'Ali Mosque;
4. The detonation of a booby-trapped car in the Verdun area; and
5. The detonation of two explosive devices outside two stores on Al-Najmah Square in Sidon.

It is worth noting that these explosions left a total of 121 people martyred and 473 others wounded in addition to causing serious material damage.

The investigations have also revealed that Mahmud Munayminah and Jihad al-Turk had at one time resided in a European state for quite a while and that Mahmud returned to Sidon a few days before the Israeli invasion. He was later formally detained for 3 months in Israeli prisons. After his detention, he began to engage in his sabotage activities. It has also been revealed that there is an arrest warrant out for Jihad al-Turk in connection with robbery. This charge is in addition to a despicable moral crime which he has committed with one of his sons.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Israeli 'Provocations'

JN231304 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Damascus — The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. There was a general political review at the beginning during which Dr Al-Kasm explained the new developments in the area and the objective of the continuous Israeli provocations and threats to Syria aimed at harming the positive results achieved by Syria's firm pan-Arab policy in Lebanon and the area. He also explained that Syria is fully prepared to confront any Israeli aggression.

Report on Tripartite Committee Meetings in Damascus

JN191314 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The tripartite committee stemming from the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Forces resumed its meetings for the second consecutive day in Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's office this morning. Last night Khaddam received Nabih Birri. The Lebanese Forces delegation, consisting of Michel Samahah and As'ad al-Shaftari, returned here late last night in the company of former Minister Michel al-Murr. They met with Khaddam while Minister Junblatt left for Al-Mukhtarrah.

Nabih Birri met with Marwan Hamadah and Muhammad Baydun. Birri, who left a short time ago for Beirut and who will return here with Junblatt this evening or tomorrow morning, told our radio this morning that he carried an amendment plan [mashru'an tashihyan] proposed by President Amin al-Jumayyil. It was discussed yesterday and this morning and deals with the powers of the president of the republic and the Ministerial Council. Birri added that he personally considers this plan better than the plan presented by the Lebanese Forces.

Saudi business man Rafiq al-Hariri returned from Beirut last night. He is closely following the meetings.

Birri Accuses Forces of 'Obstructing' Peace Plan

JN201242 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Louis Faris report from Damascus]

[Excerpt] In a new statement to our radio this morning, Minister Nabih Birri said that he did not personally convey a plan proposed by President Amin al-Jumayyil because, as he put it, it is not his habit to do so at all. However, Minister Birri reaffirmed to us that such a plan was submitted by President al-Jumayyil and it is now in Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's office. Birri reiterated what he told us yesterday to the effect that President al-Jumayyil's plan is, in his opinion, better than the Lebanese Forces plan because Al-Jumayyil's provides for the immediate cancellation of sectarianism in jobs and expedites the

transitional stage, contrary to what was cited in the Lebanese Forces plan.

Minister Birri also accused the Lebanese Forces of obstructing the tripartite agreement. He told us that today is scheduled as the last day in which the Lebanese Forces could give their final reply.

Ministers Birri and Junblatt are still in Damascus awaiting this reply. We have learned from the two ministers' sources that a lengthy meeting was held in Khaddam's office last night, attended by Marwan Hamadah, Muhammad Baydun, Birri, and Junblatt. We have also learned from these sources that a lengthy discussion was held on the amendments at the last moment. Hamadah and Baydun then left for Beirut and will return this evening to attend the expected meeting with the Lebanese Forces delegation which Minister Birri expects to return this evening with a final reply to the amendments centering on two focal points: the transitional period and cancellation of political sectarianism.

TISHRIN Links Missile Crisis to Lebanese Accord

JN200750 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 20 Dec 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" Column, *TISHRIN* writes: With the renewal of Damascus' contacts among influential Lebanese parties to crystallize the tripartite agreement, Israel continued its threats, using the Syrian missiles as a pretext, although these missiles are deployed within Syrian territory. It is also using as pretext the need to provide freedom for Israeli reconnaissance flights.

The Israeli officials' statements always express fears that Syria might reach a strategic balance, considering this balance a declaration of war against Israel. Actually, the enemy leaders have never abandoned their hostile, expansionist schemes.

TISHRIN adds: Israel's pretexts do not stand up to truth and logic. How can it object to the deployment of missiles on Syrian territory while it is sending its planes to Lebanese airspace to provoke both Lebanon and Syria? How can it accuse Syria of preparing for a war while it is rejecting peace efforts to hold a U.N.-sponsored international conference and is stockpiling advanced U.S. weapons in its arsenal? Syria, which is committed to full Arab rights, will continue intensive efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon and help the fraternal country regain its normal life and role in the region.

In the meantime, Syria will continue efforts to reactivate militant Arab solidarity in a manner mobilizing energies and capabilities against Israel and its hostile schemes. Moreover, Syria will not go back even one iota on the objective of strategic balance. It will press its way ahead unaffected by Israel's threats, reserving the right to reply to any aggression.

Papers on Israeli 'Sabotage Network' in Lebanon

JN220748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 22 Dec 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Fresh Evidence of U.S.- Israeli Role in Lebanon," *AL-BATH* says: Yesterday, Beirut radio interrupted its normal programs to announce that an Israeli sabotage network had been broken up. This network had carried out many crimes, particularly detonating boobytrapped vehicles that killed dozens of innocent people and hindered all solutions reached by the warring factions. The breacking up of this network coincided with the statements made by a Western military attache in Beirut that U.S. pilots flew over Lebanon in Israeli fighter planes to reconnoiter and test new equipment supplied to the Israeli Air Force by the United States.

The paper adds: This is further evidence to prove that the U.S. Administration is behind the sins that have been committed in Lebanon. It also shows that this Administration has not and will never work to extricate Lebanon from its plight, but in fact is doing the contrary. *AL-BATH* notes that what has been happening in Lebanon is now very clear. Eliminating those who are still working both overtly and covertly against Lebanon's unity and stability is now an urgent matter. They must be faced with the unified position of those who are working for Lebanon's rescue from this plight. Unless this is done we are afraid that the cycle of violence and death in Lebanon will not end. Unless those who stand to lose in a solution are not confronted or made to account for their deeds, the threat will continue to affect everyone.

AL-THAWRAH also deals with the Israeli sabotage network discovered in Beirut. It says that the discovery of this network proves that Israel and its agents are behind the acts aimed at creating flareups, escalating tension, and provoking fighting among various Lebanese factions in order to hinder the reconciliation process and keep Lebanon in a state of anarchy and instability. Through plots and sabotage networks Israel imagines that it can realize what it could not realize by military invasion now that a general Lebanese trend has emerged toward reconciliation on the basis of Lebanon's Arabism and the unity of its territory and people. Israel is aware that the next step to reconciliation will be to liberate the south from all traces of Israeli and agent occupation.

Concluding, *AL-THAWRAH* says: With Syria's backing and support, the Lebanese people have been able to realize important, constructive steps in this direction. These steps must continue in order to reach the shores of safety with Lebanon and the Lebanese people and reduce the number of stages in order to deal with urgent tasks, particularly liberating the remainder of Lebanese occupied territory, and rebuild Lebanon so as to benefit and strengthen Lebanon and the Arab nation.

Comment on U.S.-Israeli Reactions to Missiles

JN231044 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus, 23 Dec (SANA) — *TISHRIN* says that the Israeli threats against Syria are no longer a mere repetition of

the statements the Tel Aviv leaders have been making day and night, but a kind of aggression mania that dominates the minds of the Israeli military establishment in accordance with a programmed plan prepared in cooperation with the United States to redraw the map of the Arab region. In an article entitled "The U.S.-Israeli Threat", *TISHRIN* adds that what particularly attracts attention is that while the enemy war minister Rabin was warning Syria of the consequences of moving its missiles, U.S. State Department spokesman Redman was issuing a similar warning to Libya for a similar reason — the deployment of anti-aircraft missiles to protect Libyan airspace from the violations of U.S. aircraft.

TISHRIN does not rule out the possibility that the United States and Israel will embark on simultaneous operations against Libya and Syria to create a new situation in the region. This would make it easier for these two strategic allies to impose the U.S. and Israeli will on the Middle East under the slogan of U.S. peace so the Arab nation would give in to the humiliating Israeli-U.S. conditions and the Arabs' central issue — the Palestine question — would be lost.

The newspaper accuses the U.S. Administration of bringing the Middle East situation to the point of explosion and of directly and intentionally aggravating tension in an already tense region instead of shouldering its responsibility as a superpower concerned with preserving world peace. *TISHRIN* addresses the Washington rulers by saying they should realize their hostile stand against the Arabs lessens the chances of achieving peace in the region and places the region's future in jeopardy. They should also realize that Syria and all the Arabs know how to appropriately defend themselves.

TISHRIN: Israel Fears Jordan-Syria Rapprochement

JN220850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 22 Dec 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In a comment today *TISHRIN* deals with the effective Syrian role in the region and links this to Arab solidarity, affirming that Syria's effective role, if it continues in its present tone, will polarize Arab forces and revive the Arab solidarity of struggle. Israel is concerned about the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement and regards the new development as a defeat for it, particularly since Jordan has joined Syria in rejecting partial solutions, separate deals, and direct negotiations, and has demanded an international conference under UN auspices and with USSR participation. We all remember the recent Tel Aviv rulers' urgent calls to Jordan to separately join the settlement plot, undoubtedly hoping to trap the fraternal country with ease. Syria's strategy has three directions: building the strategic balance, realizing national reconciliation, and reviving Arab solidarity. In Israeli eyes this is a grave threat that should be confronted by all means and methods. The problem of the missiles, which Israel has fabricated, reflects the enemy fears of the continuation and success of the Syrian strategy on all these three levels. Hence, the Zionist escalation, the campaigns of instigation and provocation, and the preparation for a large-scale aggression on Syria.

Rabin Interviewed on Defense, Political Issues

TA222245 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
2120 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the "What Is the Question" program, moderated by Shim'on Tessler; questions by cadets from the IDF Cadet School; date not given — videorecorded]

[Text][Cadet Nadav Strelitz] In light of the fact that Syria has stationed missiles along its border with Israel, how dangerous is the threat to our country, and how is Israel preparing for a possible confrontation against this background?

[Rabin] Let me first correct the way you phrased the question: Syria did not deploy missiles along its Israeli border. We have two potential arenas of friction with Syria. One is the Golan Heights, which is a line that separates the Syrian forces from ours, and where we have been living for over 11 years under the disengagement agreement supervised by a UN force. In this area in which we theoretically have direct contact or there can be a direct Israeli-Syrian clash of ground forces, there is currently no tension. The second arena has to do with Lebanon, namely the missiles that are currently deployed, surface-to-air missiles that threaten Israeli interests and present a danger to Israel's freedom of overflying Lebanon. The location of the missiles, vis-a-vis Metulla, is approximately 50-60 km north of our border with Lebanon in the same region. One should bear these facts in mind: First, on 19 November, two Syrian MIG 23's were shot down over Syrian airspace by our aircraft, which were defending themselves. On 24 November, the Syrians employed a double move: They advanced the SAM-6's into Lebanon, and advanced SAM-2's to the Syrian-Lebanese border, stationing them on sovereign Syrian soil. On Sunday 3 weeks ago, the Syrians retreated all the SAM-6 and SAM-8's that were previously deployed in Lebanon, and since then there have been no Syrian missiles on Lebanese soil. The implication of the advancement of the SAM-2's in the military sense is imposing a limitation on the Israeli Air Force's freedom to overfly Lebanon, which it does for two purposes: for intelligence purposes, and in order to raid terrorist bases in the Al-Biqa'. Allow me to add that in making this move the Syrians broke two codes of conduct that have prevailed since June 1983. Prior to that, from April 1981, there were Syrian missiles both in the area where the SAM-2's are currently deployed, and also in the area where the SAM-6's were in Lebanon, but Israel refrained from taking any action about it up until the Peace for the Galilee operation.

There is no doubt that the advancement of the SAM-2's, and leaving them inside Syrian territory, and the resulting threats, limit the Air Force and constitute a potential for an escalation between Syrian and Israel. This may not necessarily happen today, but the very move and the current situation carry the potential for an escalation. I shall say no more.

[Cadet Shlomo Giv'oni] Regarding the previous question: In addition to advancing the missiles, there was also the incident in which the two Syrian aircraft were downed. In fact, one could say that there has been a deterioration and an escalation, as you said. What does Israel plan to do, and what is the IDF doing in the security sphere, to prevent this deterioration? And in regard

to the shooting of the two aircraft, there have been media reports that the interception was carried out on instruction from the so-called local military echelon, without the approval of the political echelon. Is that correct? What is your reaction?

[Rabin] The nature of the flights, one of which resulted in the interception of the two MIG's, is very specific, and I shall not be more explicit. As for the policy of conducting the flights, the nature of the flights and everything related to them, the decision was made at the chief of staff and defense minister level. As the flight was in progress, there was a senior commander in the control center, who in my opinion acted reasonably in accordance with the circumstances as they were known to him during those fractions of a second he had to make a decision. If he had made a mistake, and I emphasize, under the circumstances that were known to him, the implication could have been that our aircraft would have been attacked. I therefore support the considerations that guided that commander under the circumstances in which he received his information.

It is true that afterwards we learned from many sources that the Syrians had no intention of intercepting our aircraft, but this is hindsight. Consequently, it seems to me that certainly we did not have any intention, and evidently also the Syrians did not mean to reach a confrontation. However, things sometimes happen even when the two parties perhaps do not want them to happen. As logic would have it, and I hope this applies to both parties, if there is no desire to engage in a confrontation, and certainly not in a confrontation that could result in a deterioration and an escalation, the two parties must exercise responsibility and indicate a greater understanding of what is permissible and what is not for both parties to do. As I said, the Syrians made the move and have retracted part of it, but part of it remains, and as I said before, we regard it as something which harbors the potential of a deterioration. I hope that in the course of time, the way will be found to avoid this deterioration, without harming Israel's vital interests.

[Cadet Yosi Kohen] Mr Defense Minister, do you not think that in spite of all of Israel's efforts to prevent the relations with Syria from worsening there might be a deterioration that would lead to a comprehensive war along our northern border? If such a war occurs, what is your assessment of the Syrian Armed Forces at present, compared to the IDF?

[Rabin] As for the prediction regarding if, when, and what the outcome of the war might be, Israeli history has proved how right our sages were in stating that since the destruction of the Temple the gift of prophecy has been given only to fools. Let me say this: Syria's policy is the most hostile of all our neighboring Arab countries. Not only is it hostile to us, but Syria is making very serious efforts to strengthen its power. Over the past 3 years, and with the massive assistance of the Soviet Union, Syria has substantially increased its military power in terms of quantity and quality.

If I were asked today where the potential, and I emphasize that it is only the potential, which does not necessarily have to materialize, of a military confrontation between an Arab country or Arab countries and Israel can be found, I would say first and foremost along the Syrian-Israeli plane. At the same time, as a

result of the inter-Arab scene I can hardly envision another Arab country joining Syria in initiating a war against Israel. I emphasize initiating a war as distinct from an incident of some limited scope, and of whatever nature. Therefore, Syria knows that initiating a war, or taking steps that would result in a deterioration leading toward a war, would place it alone vis-a-vis Israel. I presume that if it thinks right, and if it considers and weighs things properly, Syria realizes that, notwithstanding its high and mighty pronouncements about its striving to achieve a strategic balance with Israel, it cannot face the IDF alone. However, I cannot be certain that my logic and Syrian logic are one and the same. Consequently, the self-evident conclusion is that we need to be alert and ready lest we find ourselves surprised after assuming, logically, that Syria alone does not have the power to face the IDF in an all-out confrontation. At the same time, our policy has been to avoid war. We do not want war, but neither are we prepared to give up our vital security interests.

[Tessler] Before we hear the next question, I would like for a moment to go back to the missiles. A moment ago, you intimated that Israel will in fact not accept the presence of the missiles where they are currently deployed. Still, what means do we have of forcing them to withdraw the missiles?

[Rabin] I did not intimate it; I said that if the SAM-2's remain in their present deployment, this will constitute a potential for an escalation. Let me give you an example: If terrorism from Lebanon increases, and we know that the major terrorist bases are located in the Al-Biq'a, and if the IDF operates against the terrorist bases, possibly by air, and if missiles are activated, a situation might be created in which, without any party wanting it, there is an escalation. In other words, the very deployment of the missiles in their current location creates a new situation in regard to reconnaissance flights and operational flights not aimed against Syria, but aimed against terrorist targets in Lebanon. As a result of the desire not to reach a confrontation with Syria, or as a result of a Syrian error, we might find ourselves in a situation that envelops a deterioration, an escalation. This is what I meant, but I did not intimate what you think I did.

[Tessler] At any rate, the very presence of the missiles at their location will not deter us from doing in Lebanon whatever we think we must do for our own security, is that right?

[Rabin] We will do what we think, in the way we think right, and at the time we deem appropriate, as we think is warranted.

[Tessler] This is really a detailed answer.

[Cadet Hezi Gildor] Mr Defense Minister, earlier you mentioned the growing strength of Syria primarily vis-a-vis the IDF. How is the IDF preparing, given the defense budget cuts, for the increase of quality, sophisticated arms from both the East and the West in the hands of the Arab countries?

[Tessler] Not Western weapons.

[Rabin] He said of the Arab armies, and in that respect he is correct. Not insofar as Syria is concerned.

The present situation is as follows: The Arab countries are

constantly continuing to strengthen their military power. Let me give only two examples from the past few months: British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher visited the area and signed two arms deals, one with Saudi Arabia and the other with Jordan, to the tune of \$4 billion. The U.S. Administration has submitted to Congress a proposed arms deal with Jordan worth \$1.5-\$2 billion, and this above and beyond the Soviet arms that are funneled into Syria, Iraq, and other Arab countries. At the same time, the political and military reality in the Arab world at this stage does not permit the Arab world to manifest and express its full military resources in a coordinated fashion. The reasons are as follows: Peace with Egypt has removed that country from the cycle of war for the foreseeable future. As long as the war between Iraq and Iran continues, or the severe tension between these two countries prevails, Iraq will be glued to its eastern front, as a result of which there will be a lull on our eastern front.

I do not believe Jordan will join Syria in an initiated war, so that for the moment the potential threat is only where Syria is concerned. But for the more distant future, should the political map change within the Arab world, the military potential will be there.

Let me admit that in contrast to this, we are experiencing a difficult period. The need to rehabilitate the national economy has resulted in the unprecedented slashing of Israel's defense budget. Since 1983, we have cut \$650 million, compared to the defense budget that was maintained every year between 1974 and 1983. The result is that we are the only Middle Eastern country that has cut its defense budget. Let me say this outright in this forum: It is impossible to carry out such cuts without limiting the order of battle in the IDF, its activity, research and development, and procurement. The Cabinet knowingly undertook security risks, which may be serious risks, for the sake of rehabilitating the economy. I believe that in making those cuts we are beginning to approach the red line, beyond which we must not go unless someone wants to face a state commission of inquiry in 2 or 4 years.

[Cadet Nitzan Niv] Mr Minister, my question has to do with the degree of rapprochement between Syria and Jordan. How close have they come, and what risks does this present to us?

[Rabin] First, of course, the rapprochement between Jordan and Syria lies outside the scope of Israel's influence. All I can comment about is its implications. It seems to me that the danger of a confrontation between Jordan and Syria has decreased. It is also true that the chance that Jordan would agree to enter into peace negotiations with Israel bilaterally and directly has also diminished. Without direct bilateral negotiations it would, I believe, be difficult to make peace between an Arab country and Israel. Had President al-Sadat waited for Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to give their consent for his pursuing peace with Israel, peace would never have been reached to this very day. Any Arab country that makes peace with Israel conditional upon another Arab country or countries will, in my mind, not achieve peace with us. Therefore, the above has decreased the danger of a Jordanian-Syrian confrontation, but unfortunately, if this process continues and the political understanding between Syria and Jordan grows, this would decrease the chances for a bilateral move toward peace between Jordan and Israel.

[Cadet Mikha'el Kaminer] Mr Minister, terrorist commands have been active in Jordan for some time now. In the past, thanks to political pressure from us, the activity of these commands diminished. The question is whether their activity still bothers us, and what do we plan to do: Do we plan to approach Jordan, if at all possible?

[Rabin] I believe that the main achievement of our operation against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia was to clarify to the Arab countries that PLO headquarters are not immune, wherever they may be. To the best of my understanding, Jordan has imposed certain limitations that have cut back the freedom of action of the terrorist elements, although not completely. Nonetheless, I believe that our comprehensive campaign has limited the wave of terrorism. Let me add, however, that terrorism cannot be uprooted through military measures alone. By the same token, terrorism cannot be accepted in a fatalistic approach. Substantial achievements can and should be reached in preventing and limiting terrorist attacks. It is necessary to step up the penal measures against the perpetrators, their activators, the instigators, and the headquarters that decide to launch those operations.

[Tessler] Sir, can we live with the present rate of activity of the PLO headquarters in Jordan?

[Rabin] I would say that we would like to see a maximum cutback in this, and we must persevere in our efforts in various directions that would limit to the minimum the activities of that facility.

[Cadet Uri Weinhaber] Mr Minister, you spoke earlier about the IDF activity inside Lebanon. In fact, we know that since the IDF's pullback from southern Lebanon, relative quiet has prevailed in that sector. Do you foresee a deterioration in the situation in the region, and if so, what is the defense establishment doing both in the military and political spheres to prevent such a situation?

[Rabin] In January, the national unity government adopted a resolution to end the military involvement in Lebanon and set a single objective for Israel's security in Lebanon [as heard], namely securing the border in the most direct way, while avoiding any interference in the normal flow of life of the inhabitants of the northern settlements. We have been implementing this in a different way. The IDF is deployed along the Lebanese border, there is a security zone backed by the IDF, together with liaison and with our activity inside the security zone and while maintaining our freedom of action against objectives in Lebanon. Up to now, this method has proved its effectiveness in military terms in a sector in which there is activity that makes everything possible due to the situation that prevails in Lebanon, although usually the least favorable scenario materializes. In light of all this, I cannot guarantee that the situation there will not become worse. However, I believe in the system we have established and the preparations for an escalation should it take place, and I am talking about the Lebanese-Israeli context, not in terms of Syria and Israel, we are prepared even for an escalation.

[Cadet Menahse Shahamon] Once again about Lebanon: Recently, the United States expressed its reservations with the presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, and it is not too eager

to finance this activity. On the other hand, other Western countries that were interested in leaving the sector a few months ago are currently not interested in leaving it. My question, Mr Minister, is whether UNIFIL is limiting the IDF's maneuverability and freedom of reaction in southern Lebanon, and can the Israeli Government take any measures to limit UNIFIL's presence?

[Rabin] Israel's policy is simple. We do not want, we do not seek to have even one single foreign soldier guard us. We are big, adult, and strong enough, and can preserve our own security. UNIFIL does not exist because Israel wants it. To the contrary. A month ago, I met with the UN secretary general and told him that as far as Israel is concerned, he can take that force and send it back home. We told the countries, which are by and large friendly toward Israel, take your boys home. This force has been described as a peace force, and yet it has to deal with terrorism. It is not structured for this, it does not have the means to do this, and it is incapable of administering this office. From our point of view, this force can be abolished and go home tomorrow. No, let me correct that: yesterday.

[Cadet Li'or Peretz] Mr Minister, will our role in the "star wars" project be reduced following the Pollard affair, and what kind of damage can result from this?

[Tessler] Let me just add to this some other things, such as the U.S. customs service which, with the help of the cameras, raids plants that have commercial ties with us.

[Rabin] The Pollard affair has nothing to do with the SDI [strategic defense initiative]. Even now the contacts in this sphere are continuing. There are appeals, there is a dialogue, and there has been no interruption in this specific sphere.

As for the incident that involved the NAPCO Company, this is very bizarre, because the deal between the military industries and NAPCO Company for the purchase of a chrome-plating plant was done above board, in the open. One of the articles of the contract stipulates that the company must arrange an export license for everything that will be exported to Israel. Furthermore, we submitted a request to the Department of Defense to be allowed to use U.S. aid money for this procurement, and we obtained a written approval to use the U.S. funds in this deal. All this happened in advance.

What may have happened is that the U.S. company did not fulfill its part of the deal, and although I cannot be sure of this, at the worst it may not have made sure of that. Therefore, in private, State Department people have made an apology, and an announcement was issued that no Israeli is suspected of any illegality in connection with this affair. As to what motivated those who did it to not only do it, but to do it as a big show — after all, simultaneously with the search warrant they invited the television teams which had been forewarned to appear and be present at the search — this was apparently aimed at creating a certain atmosphere and pressure, and possibly to help the delegation that arrived in Israel [to question the people allegedly involved in the Pollard affair] to obtain the maximum.

[Cadet Amnon Avraham] Mr Minister, recently Egypt has been

violating the peace agreement with Israel, particularly by introducing military forces into the demilitarized areas of the Sinai. The question is what the Israeli reaction to this is, and why this is not made common knowledge. The public is not aware of this.

[Rabin] I do not understand what violation of the agreement you are referring to.

[Avraham] The introduction of military units into demilitarized zones in the Sinai, into areas in which military forces may not be?

[Rabin] To the best of my knowledge, over the past 12 months there has not been any significant breach of the military part of the peace agreement that is different, if such exists [sentence as heard]. To the best of my knowledge, no forces are deployed beyond what was acceptable as per the military part of the peace agreement. What happened, and is subject for dispute between Egypt and Israel, has to do with the fortifications. To the extent that there is occasionally an argument over a violation, and they complain about us just as we complain about them, the MFO maintains supervision and submits a report on every complaint of a breach to both sides. But let me add that I regard the attainment of peace between Egypt and Israel as a historic achievement. I find it necessary to express appreciation and gratitude to those who brought about the situation in which the major Arab country and Israel have reached a peace agreement, have made this great leap that people previously thought no Arab leader would do. I see it as a supreme Israeli duty, and the duty of any government in Israel, to do all it can and the best it can to preserve the peace for the sake of peace in general, and for the sake of the strategic situation which I described earlier, which changes the picture of the military balance of power between the Arab world and us, and consequently for the risks which Israel might occasionally allow itself to take, provided of course that the condition of reciprocity prevails and that Egypt and Israel share the same desire, and do as much, to maintain and extend and develop bilateral peace.

[Cadet Yosi Lax] As time goes on, the arms race in our region escalates and Israel's defense expenditures rise even beyond the latest budget cuts. This process will sooner or later lead us to economic bankruptcy. Has the time not come yet to review and reassess Israel's security concept and possibly establish it on a different concept that will not necessarily lead it to economic suicide?

[Rabin] I am familiar with this thought of how, if at all, it would be possible, by changing the security concept or the structure of the IDF, to obtain a better yet cheaper army. Unfortunately, there are no magic formulas in this area. I know that periodically the media comes up with ideas about an army with more sophisticated and precise weapons that will relieve us of the arms presently conceived as the main component of our power. Gentlemen, any more sophisticated weapon is by far more expensive. More precise antitank missiles cost tens of thousands of dollars, as against hundreds of dollars for a good tank cannon shell. Therefore, to become more sophisticated and thereby smaller does not necessarily imply a reduction in costs. There is no other choice. It is necessary to maintain a balance between quantity and quality. Right now we are walking a tightrope, in a narrow

path, in light of the budgetary constraint, not by the options we have.

I cannot envision, for many years to come, a possibility that Israel could dispense with its military power. Right now, what forms the wall between Israel's existence and its destruction is the IDF. Its power is the key to the chance of preventing a war and the chance to persuade an Arab leader that the course of war will yield him nothing, which is why he would do better to reach an agreement. The strength of the IDF provides the backing and support for the existing peace agreements and for those that will come, as well as to all other arrangements, written or not. It is impossible to guarantee the existence of Israel without a strong, developing, growing, and advancing, on the human and technological level, IDF.

[Tessler] Mr Defense Minister, let me remind you that in 1974-1975 Moshe Dayan recommended in this context that Israel equip itself with quality arms, meaning nuclear arms. What is your position on the matter now?

[Rabin] Israel's policy is not to be the first to introduce nuclear arms to the framework of the Middle East conflict. This we have pledged to the world, and have honored it. As one who has only read but is knowledgeable through this reading and study about nuclear arms, I think it would be an illusion to suppose that if at any point in time we obtain nuclear arms, this will solve all of Israel's security problems. There is no hocus pocus, and the proof that this type of arms does not solve the problem of war, including the wars of the superpowers, even if you call them peripheral wars, is the U.S. war in Vietnam, the Soviets' war in Afghanistan. I therefore suggest that one not deceive oneself into thinking there is some sort of magical technological formula that removes the need for a conventional fighting human combat network. Israel cannot exist without that.

[Cadet Ofir Holder] The IDF's quality is founded on professionalism and values. What should be the relative weight of these two factors in educating soldiers, and particularly officers?

[Rabin] When the issue is values, we talk about the human being, the fighter, the commander, the operator, the maintenance worker, and those involved in the administrative aspects. Values cannot be imparted to weapons. Values can be imparted to the people who operate and maintain the weapons. As I said earlier, there is a terrible misconception in the world when people believe that the more sophisticated the weapons, the more screens they have, and the more they are based on advanced technology, this could theoretically provide a substitute for the quality of the manpower activating and maintaining it. But the opposite is true. I, for one, think that as more modern weapons are introduced into the arena, the importance of the qualitative factor, and by implication let me say the Israeli advantage over the average Arab soldier, increases. Hence the greater and growing importance of investing in values, education, and the motivation that stems from these two, in regard to every Israeli. What matters is not only the weapon, although it too is important. What counts is the person behind it, activating it. In fact, this is where the central edge Israel has over the Arab countries stands: not in the number of personnel, not in the quantity of weapons, and not always in the quality of the weapons. If we lose this advantage,

and there is no reason why we should — on the contrary, I believe the gap is growing in our favor — I believe that we will be able to stand the few against the many. Therefore, special attention should be given to nurturing values.

POST on Rabin Statements

TA220854 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
22 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] Israel has told the U.S. that Syria's recent deployment of anti-aircraft missiles on its border with Lebanon could lead to an escalation of conflict, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night at a Labour Party seminar in Bet Berl [Labor Party congress center]. The Israel warning has been transmitted from Washington to Syria, Rabin said, according to Radio Israel.

Rabin also said that Israel had not downed the two Syrian MIGs last month as a result of an error and had, therefore, not apologized to Syria. He was referring to reports attributed to U.S. officials in Washington that the Israel Air Force had seriously blundered in authorizing the shooting down of the MIGs, and had asked the U.S. to convey its apology to Syria.

The decision to down the planes was taken on the spot by the responsible operations officer, Rabin said, and affirmed that he stood by it.

The defence minister also told IDF officer trainees on Friday that the most likely scenario for increased tension with Syria was based on future Israeli air attacks on terrorist bases in east Lebanon's Al-Biq'a Valley, which is within range of the missiles deployed by Syria.

"If terror from Lebanon is stepped up — and we know that most of the terror bases are in the Al-Biq'a — and the IDF acts against terror bases, let's assume from the air, and if missiles are used, a situation is likely to be created where, without this side or the other wanting it, there is escalation," he said.

The *AL-BATH* newspaper of President Hafiz al-Asad's ruling party warned last week that Syria would not tolerate Israel's continued violation of Lebanon's airspace. Despite the Syrian warning, Israel Air Force planes flew over the Lebanese capital, the Al-Biq'a Valley and the southern port city of Sidon on Friday, according to the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Sources at Lebanon's military command said the Israeli planes swept the Syrian-controlled Al-Biq'a before veering westward to crash the sound barrier over Beirut and Sidon.

'Hundreds' Evacuate Settlements Near Syria

GF211523 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic
20 Dec 85 p 1

[Report from Amman]

[Excerpt] *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* has received an urgent report from Amman stating that hundreds of Israeli families in Teverya and Israel's northern and Galilee settlements have recently left

their homes fearing a new Israeli-Syrian war.

AL-FAJR Journalist Found Dead Near Jerusalem

TA201925 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The body of Hasan 'Abd al-Khalil, a journalist with the East Jerusalem newspaper *AL-FAJR*, was discovered north of Jerusalem this afternoon. The journalist has been reported missing since early October. Our police affairs correspondent, Uri Kohen-Aharonov, reports that the body was discovered by two shepherds and was identified by the identification card found in the clothes. Our correspondent reports that the remains of a hand grenade were found near the body. The cause of the death remains undetermined.

Shamir: No Significant Agreement Reached on Tabah

TA231409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1150 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The only thing Israel and Egypt agreed on the Tabah issue is that if talks begin, whether through conciliation or arbitration, they will take place in Geneva and be held in English. This was said to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

The two main points on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's agenda are the Tabah affair and the matter of the Mormons. The committee's guest, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, said the facts are clear. To this day there is no clear understanding between Israel and Egypt over the solution to the Tabah problem. The conclusions of the committee of directors general do not denote any cardinal agreement between the delegations. The only thing clear so far is that if the talks begin, they will begin in Geneva and the language used for the discussions will be English. In any event, we still have to decide whether we are going to follow the path of conciliation or arbitration, the foreign minister said. The Egyptians have not yet provided a positive answer about joint management with the losing side on the Tabah matter, in contradiction to reports in the press which Shamir said he is not responsible for. We must continue to conduct negotiations; there is no agreement and no conclusion and it is clear to both the prime minister and the foreign minister that things remain to be clarified in order for all the data to be available before a decision is made.

The foreign minister also criticized the Egyptians. Israel asked Egypt for compensation for the families of those who were shot at Ra's al-Burqa'. The Egyptian foreign minister referred sympathetically to this, but said that this would only be discussed at the end of the Egyptian soldier's trial. Many agreements and understandings fell by the wayside, such as relations between Egypt and the PLO and the incitement in the Egyptian media — and not only in the opposition papers, as the foreign minister put it. In his view, the return of the ambassador should not be subject to conditions. Answers must be received from the Egyptians.

There must be a meeting and a written agreement, because it is stronger.

Peres-Weizman Dispute Remains

*TA211940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] The differences of opinion between the prime minister and Minister 'Ezer Weizman on the departure of the directors general delegation to Egypt remains. Minister Weizman told our political correspondent Yoram Ronen that during his meeting with the prime minister 2 days ago, an agreement was reached that the directors general not be sent to Cairo and to make do with clarifications that will be relayed through Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni. The Prime Minister's Office, on the other hand, has announced that Shim'on Peres has not yet reached a decision on the matter. People in the foreign minister's office are saying that it was the prime minister's suggestion that the directors general leave for Cairo, and Yitzhaq Shamir only agreed to it without any enthusiasm, because he believes no progress has been made in the negotiations with Egypt.

Egypt To Implement Normalization Agreements Soon

TA231432 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Egypt will take action toward implementing the normalization agreements in the next few days, even before a final accord has been reached on the Tabah dispute. A report that arrived from Cairo yesterday notes that President Mubarak has decided to order a series of measures to improve the atmosphere between Israel and Egypt in order to encourage Israel to agree to transfer the Tabah dispute to arbitration. It seems that these measures involve the issuing of licenses to import Israeli goods and improvements in the tourism and cultural fields. These improvements were decided on in the recent talks between Israeli and Egyptian representatives.

In the next few days Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will look for ways to obtain the Likud's agreement on the Tabah question so as to avert the need to send the directors general to Cairo. Minister 'Ezer Weizman has been pressing Peres to submit the issue to the Cabinet in the next few days on the grounds that there is no need to send the directors to Egypt again.

Along with efforts to promote relations with Egypt, the Prime Minister's Office has been trying to promote the peace initiative with Jordan. A senior political source has said that there may be important developments in this issue in the next few days. Jerusalem is also expecting King Husayn's reaction to the far-reaching measures adopted to improve the quality of life in the West Bank.

'Officials' Doubt Ivory Coast Relations Report

TA220847 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Senior Jerusalem officials are not convinced that Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny is really determined to send an ambassador to Israel.

These officials emphasize that in fact there is no difference between the text of what Houphouet-Boigny said to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in Geneva and what he said about 2 months ago at his party's congress and at a news conference. Houphouet-Boigny explained that his decision on establishing diplomatic relations with Israel depends on the government, which is only to be established next month.

People in Jerusalem fear that the meeting with the prime minister and the broad publicity it was given will invite increasing pressure on Houphouet-Boigny from Arab countries. The possibility has even been mentioned that Houphouet-Boigny's agreement to meet with Peres was aimed at raising the price of the further suspension of relations and of contacts between the Ivory Coast and the Arabs. The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that the meeting between Peres and the Ivory Coast president was organized by journalist Tamar Golan and the Foreign Ministry only learned about it after Houphouet-Boigny had given his agreement to it, much to the dissatisfaction of many of the Foreign Ministry's directors.

Foreign Ministry Disputes Doubts

TA230924 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 85 p 3

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] "We are convinced that Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny will keep his promise to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel." This was stated yesterday by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in reaction to a report published yesterday in HA'ARETZ about doubts in Jerusalem concerning this matter. The spokesman reported that the report was disputed by the Foreign Ministry, which has no doubts that the Ivory Coast president will indeed keep his word.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent comments that despite the official statement, officials are emphasizing that the promise made by Houphouet-Boigny to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is no different from previous promises. At the same time, it is hoped in Jerusalem that Houphouet-Boigny will find it difficult to retract the promise he made to the prime minister, who took the trouble to go to Geneva personally in order to meet with him. Experts have cast doubts on Houphouet-Boigny's ability to pull other African countries into establishing relations with Israel.

Head of Pollard Investigating Team Departs

TA211615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] The United States will resume intelligence cooperation with Israel. It was announced officially in Washington that Israel had given the United States all the documents it had obtained illegally in reference to the Pollard affair. Israel has also made clear that its citizens who were involved in the matter acted without permission. The head of the U.S. investigating team, Abe Sofaer, has left for the United States.

Agudat Yisra'el Submits Motion of No-Confidence

TA231015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government. The decision was made after Knesset member Avraham Shapira consulted with the Gur rabbi, and it was decided to submit the motion of no-confidence in the government this very day. The other religious factions have not joined the initiative, however. This has been reported by our Knesset correspondent Hayim Zissowitz. Agudat Yisra'el explains the motion of no-confidence by citing the plan to build the Mormon university in Jerusalem, the desecration of the Sabbath, and the absence of a response to other demands concerning religious matters.

Cabinet Cuts Additional \$180 Million From Budget

TA221845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] The Cabinet has ended a day-long session dealing with the budget. The main decisions: to cut an additional \$180 million

and impose a series of new levies on the public. Harley Braidman reports:

[Begin recording] Education Ministry officials and the Treasury agreed to introduce a one-time fee of \$60 a child on all parents from kindergarten to the end of the high school. But no family will pay more than \$120. The fee will bring in \$24 million and the sum will be deducted from the education budget. Navon's ministry will be responsible for collecting the fee, which replaced the Treasury's stand on abolishing free secondary school education. Altogether, the education budget was cut by nearly \$50 million.

There was agreement on a \$50 million cut in national insurance, involving the taxation of maternity benefits, and postponing changing of cars for the disabled for a year. Children's allowances will not be cut, but seniority increments in old age insurance will be reduced. The health budget is cut by \$23 million, two-thirds of this sum coming from higher dues, the rest from higher tax on employers and greater efficiency. The Interior Ministry budget was cut by \$14 million. The Port Authority is transferring \$38 million to the budget, over one-third of this going for essential road improvements. The subsidies will be cut by \$115 million. The standard brown loaf, milk, and postal rates will go up sharply; eggs, chicken, and water by less. It is not clear when this cut will be implemented. The supervision and freeze in building is being lifted, and the promised tax reform, mainly benefiting low- and middle-income groups, will go into effect in June.

Finance Minister Moda'i said he was satisfied with the considerable achievement, and there would be no more burdens on the public. [end recording]

OAU Condemns RSA Raid on Lesotho Capital*EA211550 Dakar PANA in English 1415 GMT**21 Dec 85*

[Text] Addis Ababa, 21 Dec (PANA) — The OAU has strongly condemned Fridays [20 December] armed raid by South African troops on the Lesotho capital of Maseru in which nine people were killed. In a press release the OAU said: "Once again in a classical example of savagery, racist South Africa, without any provocation, has raided the Kingdom of Lesotho, killing nine refugees in cold blood and causing a lot of material damage. It is not the first time that the Pretoria butchers have killed innocent people in Lesotho. It may be recalled that over forty innocent people were killed in a similar raid in 1982."

"These piratical and unprovoked acts of aggression are meant, as everyone knows, to cow the Frontline States and other countries in the region into submission so that they can give up the support they have faithfully given to the gallant people of South Africa, who are now engaged in a fierce battle with P.W. Botha and his cut-throats."

"As a sovereign state, Lesotho has the right to host refugees and it is not through such demonstrations that the racist regime will force her to disown international law concerning the sanctuary of refugees. In her blind search for alleged non-existent ANC bases outside her borders, South Africa has perpetrated aggression against the peoples in the neighbouring states in the region, a fact well known and condemned by peace-loving peoples all over the world."

"The OAU reaffirms its total solidarity with Lesotho, the liberation movement and the Frontline States and appeals to the international community to intensify measures aimed at isolating the odious regime in South Africa."

UDEAC Summit Ends, New Budget Adopted*AB191740 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French**1230 GMT 19 Dec 85*

[Text] The 21st summit of heads of state of the Customs Union of Central African States [UDEAC] has ended. The heads of state of member-states of the Union — Congo, Gabon, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, and Chad — concluded their deliberations at Souba, in southern Gabon late this morning. Here is our special correspondent Jean Vallet Mbina Manva with the story:

[Begin recording] With the deliberations of the 21st summit of the UDEAC ended, it was decided to hold the 22d summit in Equatorial Guinea. While awaiting the 22d summit of the six-member organization, their heads of state are going to work toward achieving the goals they have set themselves, as Gabonese President Omar Bongo pointed out in his closing speech.

The heads of state, at the proposal of the Steering Committee, that is the meeting of finance ministers, decided, among their other things, to institute a meeting of agriculture ministers to respond in a more concrete manner to the aspirations of the subregion — toward food self-sufficiency, which was the major theme of this meeting of Franceville.

Regarding well-being, which also implies a health policy, since the six UDEAC member-states often have to fight the same diseases, the general secretariat was mandated to develop a campaign to fight endemic diseases like malaria, which is rampant in the region, and which at the world level is responsible each year for between 150,000 to 200,000 deaths.

Concerning the issue of children's health, and the problem of finance, the ministers of finance attached so much interest to it at the opening of the preparatory meeting that the heads of state approved the budget of 2.863 billion CFA francs submitted to them. As for relations with international institutions, a certain number of which took part in the summit as observers, and with friendly countries, it was decided to send a mission of experts to France, as it was termed, in order to dissipate some misunderstanding accruing from interpretation of the provisions of the statute of the Bank of Central African States. [end recording]

AFP: Little Progress Made*AB202250 Paris AFP in French 1756 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[By Jean Claude Chapon, AFP special correspondent]

[Text] Souba (southeast Gabon), 20 Dec (AFP) — The 21st summit of the Customs Union of Central African States (UDEAC) ended Thursday night in Souba, southeast Gabon, without any appreciable progress being made toward a genuine economic and financial integration of member-states, observers note. In fact, only a little progress was made during this summit on key issues facing the six countries of the union (Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, Chad, CAR, and Equatorial Guinea). Whether on a common industrial policy, taxation system or on free movement of persons and goods, no appreciable progress was recorded during the heads of state's meetings behind closed doors, observers note further.

The only concrete decision made and approved by leaders of these states was the creation of a conference of ministers of agriculture and animal husbandry who will be charged with coordinating the agricultural policies of member-states in order to establish a common food strategy to achieve food self-sufficiency and to better fight against the effects of drought.

"The situation is still deadlocked on most of the subjects that interest the union," a high Chadian official stressed Friday. "We still come against national selfishness which still prevents any important decision regarding the community."

"Economic, industrial, and social disparities between the countries are so wide that there cannot be any concrete understanding without the will to make sacrifices on the part of some countries," a Cameroonian expert at the UDEAC observed. In fact, how can one reconcile the needs of a country like Cameroon whose 1985 budget amounts to 740 billion CFA francs with those of Equatorial Guinea whose budget for the same year amounts only to 10 billion CFA francs?

Thus the thorny issue of free movement of persons and goods envisaged 21 years ago by the founding fathers of UDEAC can still be seen blocked by the "rich" countries of the union. Cam-

eroon and Gabon, for example, which are already confronted with serious unemployment problems, are unwilling to see unemployed persons from neighboring countries come to their countries to look for some assumed work.

However, the political will of leaders of member-countries cannot be doubted. "This will is genuine, but it still comes against the particularly harmful socioeconomic atmosphere," the Chadian minister said.

"If we want the UDEAC to become a customs, financial, and economic reality tomorrow, then we must be able to surmount a lot of difficulties and reticence," a manager at the secretariat general of the union stressed.

Yet this entity of 3 million sq km and nearly 20 million people does not lack the necessary ingredients for its integration. "We have two important advantages which should have facilitated things for us — a common language and a common currency, the CFA francs," Elie Romba, Chadian minister of finance observed.

Twenty-one years after its creation, the UDEAC still remains essentially to be built from scratch, conference sources note. As the Gabonese daily, *L'UNION*, noted in its 18 December edition, "to assess the UDEAC's performance solely in a favorable light would be naive and demagogical." The newspaper goes on to note that "this relative failure of the UDEAC during its second phase of existence, is even more glaring in the fields of industry, transportation, trade, agriculture, and scientific and technical research."

However, political leaders of the countries of the area remain determined. Thus Jean-Pierre Lemboumba-Lepandou, Gabonese minister of finance, said on this subject that "the future of nations lies in large groupings."

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Talks With Sankara, Traore by Phone

*LD212001 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has had a telephone discussion with President Sankara of Burkina Faso. The head of state has also received a telephone communication from President Moussa Traore of Mali.

Oil Minister Denounces Exaggeration of OPEC Decision

*LD211543 Algiers APS in English 1403 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] Algiers, 21 Dec 85 (APS) — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will not give up defending its prices Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi said.

Belkacem Nabi denounced the exaggerated interpretation given to the OPEC market. "We did not say that we are going to maximize our exportations or that the price is going to be secondary", he told the Radio Channel III.

For Nabi, the OPEC decision illustrates in reality the member countries' will to no longer leave their revenues decrease through, the decrease in the production or through the reduction in the price. [sentence as received]

OPEC he added, wishes to set up a dialogue between the different parties essentially the consumer countries and the exporting countries outside OPEC, Mr Nabi said.

Moreover, Mr Nabi underlined that OPEC priority objective should be aimed at avoiding confrontation and instead of joint efforts so as to reach the stability of the market at the international market. It is in the general interest to have a stabilized energetic market at a level able to avoid the risks of a crisis.

SWAPO's Nujoma Arrives, Makes Statement

*LD220709 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma arrived in Algiers today. On arrival at Houari Boumediene International Airport he made a statement in which he emphasized that the apartheid regime in South Africa was seeking, through its blatant aggressions against the Frontline States, to divert attention from the internal problems besetting it. Mr Nujoma condemned the recent aggressions of the racist forces against Angola and the Kingdom of Lesotho, stressing that SWAPO and the ANC carried out their commando attacks from their bases in Namibia and South Africa, contrary to what was claimed by the racist authorities.

Concerning the situation in Namibia, Nujoma said that the situation there was going through rapid developments thanks to the armed struggle and the Namibian popular uprisings. He

reiterated SWAPO solidarity with the struggle of the Saharan and Palestinian peoples, under the leadership respectively of the Polisario Front and the PLO.

Budget Shows 5 Billion Dinar Deficit

*LD230014 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] This morning the People's National Assembly, under the chairmanship of Mr Bitat and in the presence of representatives of the government, adopted the finance law, the operating budget, and the annual plan for 1986. The state budget for 1986 amounts to 128 billion dinars but available resources amount to 123 billion dinars, that is, a budget deficit of 5 billion dinars. As for the operating budget for the various ministries, it is estimated at 67 billion dinars while the equipment budget in the annual development plan amounts to 61 billion dinars.

Ben Bella Supporters Placed on Trial

*LD230958 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] The trial of 40 persons who are supporters of the former Algerian president, Ahmed Ben Bella, and who are accused of undermining the state's security, forming armed groups, and distributing guns, began today in the town of Medea, which is west of Algiers. Among those accused in this affair are the former Algerian minister of health, Mohamed Seghir Nekkache, and Abdelouahab Ben Chennouf, who used to work as a captain with Air Algiers and whom the Algerian authorities consider to be the mastermind behind this affair.

Among the people who were brought to Medea and placed before the State Security Court, which is looking into this affair, is Mrs Fatouma Ouzegane and her son Ali Fouzi, who were sentenced last Thursday to prison terms varying from 11 months to 3 years during the trial of members of the Algerian Human Rights League and the Sons of Martyrs Committee. The number of those who were accused in this affair was 50 at the beginning of the trial, 10 of whom were acquitted. Among those who were accused are three persons who are still on the run. Most of those who are implicated in this affair have been under arrest since 1983.

An AFP correspondent says that those implicated in this case might be sentenced to death, given the accusation leveled against them: setting up of an armed organization with the aim of overthrowing the regime in Algeria. An AFP correspondent states that the indictment has pointed out that some weapons and ammunition were found in the possession of some of the accused.

On the other hand, 22 persons belonging to the Algerian Human Rights League and the Sons of Martyrs Committee, who were sentenced last Thursday to prison terms varying from 6 months to 3 years, began a hunger strike yesterday. AFP says, quoting some prisoners' families, that those people began the hunger strike to protest the conditions of detention in isolated cells at the Berrouaghia Prison, which is situated in the suburbs of Medea, southwest of Algiers.

LIBYA

U.S. Charge of Excessive Arms Rejected

LD211900 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] The U.S. Administration has voiced [word indistinct] concern over the development of military relations between Libya and the Soviet Union. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department today claimed that the weapons that Libyan possessed exceeded what he described as legitimate security requirements.

It is noteworthy that the United States has supplied the Zionist enemy and is still supplying it with the long-range fighter aircraft that had enabled the Zionists to reach Tunisia's Hammam-Plage and destroy the PLO headquarters, thousands of kilometers from the occupied territories, completely forgetting to speak about limits of legitimate security requirements.

The Arab Libyan free and sovereign people that possesses power and carry arms rejects the claims of the U.S. State Department as yet another attempt to openly interfere in other people's domestic affairs, and maintains its full right to possess all the weapons that it can get, because it alone knows the limits and requirements of its own legitimate security.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on Charge

LD220826 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday issued a statement about the charge made by the official spokesman of the American State Department that the deployment of SAM-5 missiles in Libya constitutes a serious escalation in the international situation.

The statement says: The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, while following the policy of aggressive conspiracy being engineered by the Reagan administration, condemns the American statement and cites the following facts to expose the aggressive plan and explain the excuses on which the American stance is based.

1. If the American Administration protests and expresses its anxieties over the Jamahiriya possessing SAM-5 missiles — in fact, they are for defensive purposes — the Libyan Arab people protests against the United States, because it possesses long-range missiles, an Air Force and fleets threatening the security of other peoples, causing their instability and imposing on them an atmosphere of fright and permanent blockade. While expressing this tyrannical trend in its policy, America is acting as if it has the right and means of attacking others, protesting about them if they possess the means of defending themselves to repel U.S. aggression against them.

2. The American protest openly exposes America's intentions toward Libya. Its disturbance over the deployment of these missiles shows that it intends to carry out an aggression against

Libya and is making preparations for this, otherwise what is the reason for this anxiety and disturbance of Libya possessing a means for self-defense?

3. America, which is conceited and arrogant, is acting as if the globe was a handball or a football under its feet, and not a property of all mankind who has the right to live and exist and enjoy security and stability. It is this American dominating tendency that is arousing the peoples' hatred toward it, increases their loathing and resentment of it, and drives them to united in confronting America and work to bring it down to its size, so as to put an end to the fright which it instills among the peoples of the world.

4. America had protested against Syria for deploying defensive missiles on its own territories and inside its borders. Today America protests against Libya because of missiles, the purpose of which is to defend the Gulf of Sirte and the territorial waters of Libya.

The American protest, regardless from which quarter it comes or on what level, only increases our determination in the Jamahiriya to possess all means of self-defense. If America continues its aggression against the Arab nation and its threat against us, we have no alternative but to transfer the battle to inside America. The tyrant will suffer adversities.

Tripartite Talks Held With Syria, Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD201819 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1809 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA) — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, accompanied by the Revolutionary Guard minister, the assistant defense minister, and a delegation, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD211952 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Brother Faruq al-Shara', Syrian foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In a statement to JANA, the Syrian minister voiced satisfaction at visiting the Jamahiriya, saying that this visit was part of the period tripartite meetings among the Jamahiriya, Syria and Iran. Brother al-Shara' also stressed that these periodic tripartite meetings were aimed at strengthening the relations of brotherhood and cooperation among them to confront imperialism and Zionism, all the more so since the meeting is being held on the soil of the Great Al-Fatih.

Ministers Send Message to ICO

LD222343 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 85

["Text" of telegram from Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada; date not given]

[Text] To Brother Sharifuddin Pirzada, ICO secretary general:

Given the recent developments resulting from the step taken by some states to restore or establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity, a matter constituting a grave threat to the struggle against Zionism and for the liberation of Palestine, including Jerusalem and the other occupied Arab lands, we demand that the following item be included in the provisional agenda of the 16th conference of Islamic foreign ministers: The adoption of measures to prevent the establishment or restoration of diplomatic relations by some states with the Zionist entity, and to ensure that the relations existing between some ICO member-states and the Zionist entity are severed.

Ministers Comment on Meeting

LD222248 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] The periodic meeting among the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran was concluded this evening in Tripoli. It was devoted to a study of several issues interesting the three countries and the consolidation of the cooperative relations between them.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Jamahiriya spoke at this meeting, stressing the importance of convening such periodic meetings and lauding the positive results achieved. He also affirmed that the people of the Jamahiriya highly appreciated the attitude of both Syria and Iran, and their support for it in its confrontation against all the imperialist provocations and conspiracies hatched against its security, its territorial integrity and pan-Arab options.

On his part, the brother Syrian foreign minister praised, in an address he made at the meeting, the struggle role played by the Great Fatih Revolution on all Arab levels, and its brave confrontation of all plots aimed at the freedom of peoples. He said: "We express the depth of solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in its confrontation with the American conspiracies because we are facing up to a common aggression, and we must stick to our positions until we wrest our rights with all strength."

The Iranian foreign minister also spoke at this meeting. He underlined the importance of these meetings for their contribution to the strengthening of relations among the three countries. He said: "We affirm to our brothers in the Jamahiriya that we unreservedly condemn the imperialist provocations and conspiracies against the Libyan Arab people, and we stand with it forcefully in its courageous confrontation against these schemes

seeking to harm the achievements in civilization realized by the Libyan Arab people."

Talks End in 'Total Identity' of Views

LD220842 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 0215 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison held a press conference yesterday evening following the tripartite meeting that included the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria and the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. He explained that the tripartite meeting, which lasted for several hours dealt with the Arab, Islamic, and international situation and a number of topics connected with their cooperation in various fields and international issues.

The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has asserted that there is total identity of views toward the imperialist and Zionist attacks against the Arab nation.

He said that practical steps have been agreed upon at this positive meeting. The Jamahiriya and Syria have agreed to call on the Arab League to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the question of the restoration of relations of certain African states with the Zionist enemy and the dangers of this to the African continent.

He added that agreement has been reached between the Jamahiriya and Iran to include this topic within the agenda of the Islamic Conference which will be held in Morocco next month. He announced that Iran, Syria and the Jamahiriya stand with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their progressive forces, which are seeking the liberation of the occupied territories.

Joint Communiqué Issued

JN230737 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 23 Dec 85

["Text" of joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian foreign ministers' 21-22 December meetings in Tripoli — date not given]

[Text] Within the framework of the joint and continuous meetings among the Syrian Arab Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the Islamic Republic of Iran; in consolidation of the unity of joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism; in support of the march of fraternal cooperation and coordination among the three countries; and in accordance with the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution; and His Eminence Hujjat al-Islam 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the three countries' delegations met in Tripoli on 21 and 22 December 1985 under the chairmanship of Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic; Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; and Dr 'Ali Akbar

Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The three countries' delegations held talks that were permeated by an atmosphere of full understanding. During these talks, they reviewed issues of common concern, headed by the volatile situation in the Middle East and the increasing imperialist and Zionist onslaught on the region's countries represented by the escalation of the Zionist entity's threats against Syria, the Egyptian regime's concentration of forces on the border with the Jamahiriyah, the development of the hostile war the fascist regime in Iraq launched against the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the situation in Lebanon.

The delegations also reviewed their fraternal relations in the various fields and the means to guarantee their promotion. The delegations gave special attention to the grave situation in the Middle East as a result of the hostile and expansionist policy being practiced by the Zionist enemy with the backing of the United States within the framework of their joint alliance directed against the security and safety of the region's peoples with the aim of entrenching and supporting the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine, liquidating the Palestine question, and imposing the imperialist and Zionist hegemony on the region.

The delegations renewed their condemnation of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and all attempts aimed at expanding these accords as well as all bargains aimed at imposing capitulatory solutions on the Arab and Islamic peoples and liquidating the Palestine question by means of toppling the Palestinian rifle. The delegations stressed the need to achieve Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. They expressed their support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to liberate all the usurped lands and regain their national inalienable rights, headed by their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their sovereign, independent state on their entire national soil.

The delegations expressed their full support for the Palestine National Salvation Front in its struggle against the Zionist enemy as well as its struggle to topple the capitulatory trend in the Palestinian arena and restore the PLO's unity on militant and progressive bases hostile to imperialism and Zionism. The delegations stressed that the conflict with the Zionist enemy constitutes the basic and central issue in the struggle of both the Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, they stressed that their countries consider the stand on this issue a basic criterion in assessing their relations with the various other countries. They also expressed their full support for the Palestinian people's uprising against the Zionist occupation authorities and their repressive practices in occupied Palestine.

The three delegations reviewed the serious situation resulting from the escalating imperialist and colonialist onslaught, provocations, and media campaigns against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah due to its principled and firm stands in championing the causes of truth, justice, and liberation.

The Syrian and Iranian delegations expressed their countries' complete solidarity with the Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of the schemes, provocations, and economic pressures to which it is subjected from imperialist and reactionary circles. They strongly

condemned the recent U.S. terrorist scheme against the Arab Libyan people and their revolutionary regime. They also affirmed the support of their countries with all their potentials for the Arab Libyan people under brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, in confronting the imperialist and reactionary provocations and in their right to defend their territory, airspace, and territorial waters, especially the Gulf of Sidra, which is an integral part of its territorial waters. They also condemned the Egyptian regime's provocative concentration of troops along the Libyan border as well as the U.S. fleets in Libyan territorial waters. The two sides praised the role played by Col al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, in support of the issues of liberation in the world, and in Africa in particular.

The delegations studied the situation resulting from the escalation of the Zionist enemy threats and imperialism against Syria due to the steadfastness of the Arab Syrian people under the wise and courageous leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, their continuous confrontation of imperialist and Zionist schemes, and their firm defense of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence as well as the Arab Palestinian rights.

The Libyan and Iranian delegations affirmed their countries' firm support for Syria in exercising its legitimate right to take all measures to defend its sovereignty and legitimate struggle to liberate the Golan and the other occupied Arab territory as well as to regain the Palestinian people's national rights.

The delegations paid special attention to the developments in Lebanon. They strongly condemned the plots against the unity of the Lebanese territory and people as well as Lebanese independence and sovereignty. They expressed complete support for all honest efforts exerted by Syria to achieve tranquillity and stability in Lebanon. They greeted with gratitude the Lebanese people's struggle against the Zionist occupation and its agents to liberate all Lebanese territory and to achieve complete sovereignty of the Lebanese people.

The three delegations reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war. They again condemned the Iraqi regime for launching this unjust war against the Islamic revolution of Iran, which supports the Arab nation in its struggle against imperialism and Zionism. They also strongly condemned the war of cities, the attacks on oil tankers, the use of chemical weapons, and the attempts by the fascist regime in Baghdad to expand the war. The delegations expressed their firm conviction that the hostile war that is being waged by the fascist regime in Iraq against the Islamic revolution of Iran with the aim of destroying its role of liberation in the region has reduced the impact of the Islamic revolution of Iran's role in championing the central issue of the Arabs and Muslims and obstructed the Iraqi people's role in the struggle against the Zionist enemy. The delegations affirmed their support for the Iraqi people's struggle against Saddam Husayn's fascist, bloody regime.

The Syrian and Libyan delegations welcomed the Iranian side's affirmation that Iran has no designs on Iraqi territories and that it seeks to achieve good-neighborly relations and Islamic brotherhood with the Iraqi people and all the Arab countries. They also welcomed the Iranian side's affirmation that Iran is

seeking to remove the causes of the tension and aggression being waged by the fascist regime in Iraq against the Islamic revolution of Iran. The Syrian and Libyan sides expressed admiration for the achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran under the wise and courageous leadership of Imam Ayatollah Khomeini in terms of important social and economic attainments. They also expressed deep appreciation for the courageous stands of the Iranian people and government in confronting the imperialist and Zionist forces in the region.

The delegations affirmed the importance of cooperation between the Iranian Islamic Republic and the Arab countries to bolster common stands against Zionism and imperialism on the bases of mutual respect and respect for sovereignty, especially since the imperialist design aims to fragment the unity of the Islamic countries and instill differences among them in order to enable the hostile forces to regain control and domination over the region's countries. The delegations stressed the need to prevent the military naval activities of foreign countries, the establishment of military bases for these foreign countries, and the threat of using force against the region's countries.

The three delegations condemned imperialist and Zionist attempts to harm the Islamic revolution of Iran with their alleged claims of human rights violations in Iran. The delegations hailed the fraternal Egyptian people's uprising against the Camp David regime, U.S. hegemony, and the normalization of relations with the Zionist entity. They affirmed their firm support for the Egyptian people in their valiant struggle against the [Camp David] accords and for returning Egypt to the trench of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The delegations reviewed the situation in Chad and strongly condemned imperialist and colonialist interference in its internal affairs. They voiced support for the Provisional National Unity Government and for the OAU resolutions aimed at finding a solution to the Chadian problem within the framework of national reconciliation among all the Chadian factions in accordance with the Lagos agreement. The Syrian and Iranian delegations reaffirmed their countries' support for the efforts and initiatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to achieve peace in Chad.

Regarding the situation in southern Africa, the three delegations affirmed their firm condemnation of the racist, fascist policy of the white minority regime as well as the regime's continuing crimes of genocide against the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. The delegations hailed these peoples' heroic struggle and reaffirmed their determination to continue supporting their struggle with all available means that enable them to escalate their just struggle to destroy racism and achieve their independence and sovereignty. The delegations also reaffirmed their support for the African confrontation states in confronting the continuing aggression of the racist Pretoria regime. The delegations strongly condemned the cooperation between the two racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa, especially in the field of nuclear and military cooperation. The delegations reviewed the latest developments regarding the restoration of diplomatic relations between a number of African countries and the Zionist entity. They condemned the stands of the governments of the Ivory Coast, Zaire, and Liberia in this regard.

The delegations expressed displeasure and regret over recent statements by a number of Spanish Government officials which expressed a determination to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity. They warned of the adverse impact of such action on traditional Arab-Islamic-Spanish relations. The three delegations condemned imperialist interference in the internal affairs of several countries whose policies are hostile to imperialism. They also condemned imperialist attempts at hegemony and called for establishing a broad front of the oppressed nations that oppose imperialism in order to confront imperialist designs and conspiracies. The delegations voiced their commitment to support the progressive countries facing imperialist and Zionist pressure.

The delegations decided to continue their meetings in order to bolster tripartite cooperation between their countries in all fields. They agreed to hold a meeting of the three countries' ministers of economy and industry in Tehran next April, provided this meeting is preceded by a meeting of economy and industry experts in Tripoli next March. The delegations also decided to coordinate their efforts in international forums in order to gain the broadest possible support for Arab and Islamic causes and world liberation issues. The Syrian and Iranian delegations expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded them. The three delegations decided to hold their next meeting in Tehran next April.

Syrian Foreign Minister Departs

*LD222122 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1920 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec (JANA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening after attending the periodic meeting between the Jamahiriya, Syria, and Iran.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives YAR Parliamentary Official

*LD222231 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] This evening the brother leader of the revolution received Brother Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress of the Yemen Arab Republic, and the delegation accompanying him.

Brother Ahmad al-Asbahi delivered to the brother leader of the revolution a written message from President 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Receives Message From Senegalese President

*LD222308 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Athani 8, Dec 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution has received a handwritten letter from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal on bilateral relations and the situation in the African Continent.

Telephones King Fahd, UAE President

LD230031 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] A telephone conversation took place yesterday between the brother leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

There was also a telephone conversation between the brother leader and Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

Al-Turayki Receives Iran's Velayati, Cuban Official

LD211431 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met Cuban Minister of State Levi Balmaseda Farah and the delegation accompanying him at noon today. The meeting discussed ways to develop relations between the two countries. The importance of bilateral action for achieving the objectives and results which the two friendly people are trying to achieve was stressed. Also the meeting discussed many international issues of common interest.

The brother secretary also received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, and Brother Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying them. The meeting discussed ways and means to develop bilateral relations between the two countries for the common interest of both fraternal and friendly peoples. Also many Arab, Islamic, and international issues of common interest and the unification of efforts to confront all the provocations and threats made by world imperialism against the aspiration of progressive peoples in the world were discussed.

Sudanese Assistant Cooperation Minister Arrives

LD221836 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT
22 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Athani 8, Dec. 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — 'Umar Mubarak, assistant minister for cooperation in Sudan, arrived last night in Tripoli at the head of a delegation representing various Sudanese sectors on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Mubarak told the correspondent of JANA that the visit comes within the context of the recent agreement on setting up a mixed commission to consolidate and enhance all aspects of cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Tunisian Student Demonstrations Reportedly Spread

LD202317 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT
20 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, Rabi Athani 6, Dec. 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The correspondent of LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS newspaper in Tunisia reported that student demonstrations spread in Tunisia's secondary schools since the beginning

of this week, but there is a strict media black out imposed by the Tunisian authorities.

The correspondent said that clashes and confrontations between the police and the students in many secondary schools in the capital broke out when rumours spread about the Tunisian Government's decision to end free education very [word indistinct]. The newspaper quoted Tunisian informed press sources saying (?the) disturbances had reached Al Qasrayn and Baje [spelling as received] secondary schools in central and western Tunisia.

MAURITANIA**Ould Taya Returns From France-Africa Summit**

AB192215 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, returned to Nouakchott a few moments ago from Paris where he had participated in the 12th France-Africa summit which was held from 11 to 13 December 1985 in the French capital. The head of state was met upon arrival by Lieutenant Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, CMSN member and minister of interior, who acted as head of state during the CMSN chairman's absence; by the assistant governor in charge of administrative affairs; by the interim members of the (?governance) of the city of Nouakchott; and by [words indistinct]. After listening to the national anthem played by the Mauritanian Armed Forces brass band and inspecting a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the National Armed Forces in his honor, Col Ould Taya greeted the members of the CMSN and the government and several other high personalities who had come to welcome him.

In a statement to the national press, Col Ould Taya said he was returning from Paris where they had responded to the invitation of His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, to participate in the 12th summit of France and Africa: [announcer continues, reading apparent statement by President Ould Taya] During this summit, we took the occasion — among us heads of state and delegation — to hold consultations on the major African problems like the economic situation, African public debts, [words indistinct]. Other topics retained our attention, mainly Franco-African cooperation, and major international issues.

Outside of the summit, I had the opportunity of holding discussions with each of the African heads of state present on ways and means of strengthening the ties of bilateral cooperation between our country and each of the state concerned. I am satisfied with the sincere atmosphere of brotherhood which prevailed throughout all the meetings. I am convinced that it will have a positive bearing on our fraternal relations with those countries. I was also offered the opportunity to receive several representatives of Mauritanian citizens living in France, and to be informed about their situation.

I seize this opportunity to express here to the French President Francois and through him to the French people and government,

my sincere thanks for the warm welcome accorded my delegation and myself during our stay.

That then was the statement made to the national press by the head of state on his arrival from Paris. On the way from Paris to Nouakchott, the presidential jet flew over Spain and Morocco. On that occasion, Col Ould Taya addressed messages of thanks gratitude to Their Majesties Juan Carlos, king of Spain, and Hassan II, king of Morocco.

MOROCCO

USSR's Gorbachev Sends Message to King Hassan *LD211029 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Rabat, 21 Dec MAP — Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Defense Council, has sent a message to His Majesty King Hassan II in reply to a message addressed to him by His Majesty during the recent Soviet-American summit in Geneva. Here is the text:

Your Majesty,

I have read with special interest the message you addressed to me when I met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in which you expressed your concern about the current international situation and in this general context the absence of a settlement in the Middle East.

The USSR fully shares your concern. Moreover, we are acting energetically for an improvement to international problems including those in your region.

One cannot remain indifferent seeing that mankind is on the edge of an abyss and is about to destroy itself in a terrible manner. It is tragic that the direct cause of a slide toward the abyss could easily be a technical fault or an irresponsible action resulting from regional conflicts or as a result of taking stupid risks to try and impose international hegemony.

It is right to say that millions of people are aware that it is unacceptable for mankind to be threatened in this grave manner; this is what constituted the political ground for the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva. If we sum up the impressions resulting from this meeting whose political results were made known, it is essential to emphasize that the American and the Soviet sides are aware of the need to make a historical choice between life or mutual destruction. I told the President that we are ready to work hand in hand for the destruction of nuclear weapons on the condition that we reach agreement on a withdrawal from the establishment of space weapons.

If space becomes involved in the arms race it is unknown whether it would be possible to negotiate on the arms race because when space weapons are created the strategic balance will turn into a strategic disaster. No one will be able to overtake us in space, and we shall not allow our nations to be weakened.

There is a positive point in the interests of peace: It is the understanding provided for in the joint communique that nuclear

war should not break out and that both sides should not seek military superiority.

What is important is that the USSR and the United States have both expressed their support for bolstering the system of banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the complete and total ban on the use of chemical weapons.

In short, though no understanding was possible during the meeting on the main issue of prohibiting the use of space deterrent means and reducing nuclear weapons on earth, yet the results of the meeting create an opportunity for moving from the current dangerous state of confrontation to the constructive search for ways to normalize Soviet-American relations and clear the international atmosphere in general. Only time will tell whether the U.S. Administration is really prepared to implement what was agreed upon in Geneva.

As to the regional problems, among which the Middle East conflict is certainly urgent, the U.S. side has sought to defend its view of the solution to these problems precisely as President Ronald Reagan did at the United Nations. On our part, we have affirmed with full determination the need to respect the rights of (?countries) taking into consideration their interests and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Though the two sides have constantly expressed their preoccupation with the "hot spots," our (?attitudes) toward the causes of regional conflicts and ways to settle them are opposed. Hence, it is not strange to see the United States preferring to maintain silence about the criminal actions committed by Israel in the Middle East.

As far as we are concerned, we believe that it is irresponsible and extremely dangerous to ignore the fact that the continuation of the hotbed of war in the Middle East is due to Israel and the United States which stands behind it and the fact that this hotbed prevents the growth of the region's people and above all injects poison into international life which creates new factors for confrontation.

The countries in the Middle East are not solely responsible for the establishment of a just lasting peace. Hence the expression of a clear position by all the countries concerned and their commitment to a just, honorable, and comprehensive settlement becomes extremely important if not decisive.

Naturally, this does not apply only to the conclusion of international agreements guaranteeing peace but also to seeking a solution to the conflict through common efforts.

No settlement of the Middle East conflict can be lasting unless it recognizes the rights and interests of all the peoples and countries concerned and shows respect for them. But, as the Camp David experience has shown, partial solutions and separate agreements cannot be considered as progress in the right direction. This can only be achieved by taking into consideration the interests and rights of all the parties concerned and thereby making it possible to overcome all obstructions which stand in the way of solving the Middle East crisis.

In fact, this objective cannot be attained except within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all the parties concerned including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people, which is the biggest victim of the Middle East tragedy. In our opinion there is no other alternative.

We record with satisfaction the growing support for holding such an international conference. Naturally, those who oppose holding this conference should be made to focus on the idea and take into consideration the opinion of the international community and the majority of the parties concerned. There is no doubt that putting pressure on those who oppose the conference will be more effective if the Arabs themselves move collectively, pursue a policy of consultation, and show a spirit of follow-up [ar ruh al-mutaba'ah] in the defense of their legitimate cause.

One event, shown by the collective endorsement by a number of Arab countries in Casablanca for the first time of the idea of holding a conference influenced the attitude of those who oppose a just and comprehensive settlement.

There is a view that the Arab cause suffers much from the rift in Arab relations — a matter which you raised in your message. Moreover, there are a significant number of people who want to exploit every dispute and conflict among the Arabs for their own interests; who work for its amplification to bring about confrontation between some Arab states.

It is my belief that to a great extent this applies to the recent escalation of tension between Libya and Egypt. I am confident that if the Arabs renew their support for the Fes plan during the coming regular Arab summit and collectively announce this time their support for holding a conference, the Arab position will be stronger.

I want to emphasize in particular that there is not — as I see it — any dispute over our attitude to the PLO'S legal position.

We strongly support the participation of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people on an equal footing in the proposed conference.

We are very concerned at the attempts being made to push the PLO toward unjustified concessions in matters of vital importance to the destiny of the Palestine people. Any hesitation or annulment of the principled demands, particularly with regard to the withdrawal of the aggressor forces from all the occupied territories and the establishment of the national rights of the Palestinians including their right to set up their own state, cannot but lead to a further deterioration in the situation in future.

I fully share your opinion that any settlement whose success cannot be guaranteed from the start and which is based essentially on the squandering of the rights of any of the parties will be an (?unsuccessful) settlement.

As to the need to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war, to which you referred, it seems to me that this matter is both urgent and extremely important.

The USSR has always supported with determination an immediate halt to the current massacre among the brothers which no logic can accept and the continuation of which there is no justification for.

We are also against any escalation of the Iraq-Iran conflict whichever side is responsible for such an escalation.

I am confident that this conflict, like all other conflicts, should be settled by political means.

Your Majesty, I have tried to express my views most frankly on the problems raised in your message and I am confident that they will meet with your good understanding. Greetings.

Mikhail Gorbachev.

SUDAN

Cabinet Approves Finance Minister's Resignation

JN221557 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1509 GMT
22 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers under Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli DaFallah discussed the resignation tendered by 'Awad 'Abd al-Majid from his post as minister of finance and economic planning this morning. The prime minister informed the council, which approved the resignation. The council expressed its appreciation for 'Awad 'Abd al-Majid's cooperation during the previous phase and wished him success in any position he chooses to serve his country. The Transitional Military Council chairman will appoint his successor in accordance with a recommendation by the prime minister.

The prime minister entrusted Minister of Trade, Cooperation, and Supply Sayyid Ahmad al-Sayyid with managing the affairs of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning until a new minister is appointed.

Army Rejects SPLA Escort for SPLM Delegation

JN201043 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT
20 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (SUNA) — The People's Armed Forces will not allow the presence of an [SPLA] garrison on which is supposed to escort the Sudanese People Liberation Movement (SPLM) delegation scheduled to arrive here for participation in the constitutional conference's preparations member of the Transitional Military Council TMC and Chief of Staff Gen. Muhammad Tawfiq said in a statement published by the daily *AL-AYYAM* here today. He argued that the security of such a delegation is the responsibility of the Sudanese police. Gen. Tawfiq affirmed that the mission of securing the SPLM delegates is not the responsibility of the Armed Forces since the delegation is a political one and not a military. However Gen. Tawfiq asserted that every security guarantee will be availed for the delegation "by the internal security and the police". He argued that the armed Forces had taken this step of not allowing a garrison to accompany the SPLM delegation because they do

not want to repeat the same situation created in Nasir (Upper Nile Region) during the delivery of SPLA leader John Garang's message to Prime Minister al-Jazuli Da'Allah. Its worth noting that a garrison accompanying a delegation which was supposed to hand over a message to Nasir military leader for Premier al-Jazuli had instead besieged the town for several months.

Troops Shell Enemy Positions in Retaliation

EA202047 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpt] A radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] correspondent accompanying SPLA units in Kapoeta has disclosed that SPLA forces shelled enemy positions on 16th December, 1985 in retaliation to an earlier attack launched on the SPLA by Siwar al-Dhabab troops. Our correspondent further said that the enemy had sustained heavy losses in both men and material in the course of the shelling. This operation was conducted by an SPLA unit led by Lieutenant David (Makor). On the other hand, our correspondent said that the SPLA staged a successful raid on enemy troop positions at Kapoeta on 18th December 1985, destroying an ammunition store and inflicting heavy manpower and material losses on the enemy.

TMC Approves Agreement With IMF

JN211903 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum Dec 21 (SUNA) — The Transitional Military Council TMC in its meeting today with ministerial economic committee has approved the committee's report and its views on the accord reached by financial minister with the International Monetary Fund IMF. TMC spokesman General Yusuf Husayn has commended the committee's report and further assessed it as "based on facts and deep scientific studies"

Thus the TMC convincingly agreed upon the whole contents of the report, TMC spokesman said.

On the other hand, Commerce, Cooperation and Supply Minister al-Sayyid Ahmad al-Sayyid, who is also a member of the ministerial economic committee, has asserted the principle of cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank. There is now plenty of time to negotiate new economic policies, thus we should negotiate through the already concluded policies which were mostly agreed upon by the economic committee, he stressed.

Al-Sayyid added that the ministerial economic committee had made use of Sudanese economist experts' consultations and some of the IMF and the World Bank reports on Sudan's economy.

The committee will tomorrow brief the Cabinet on the TMC views.

Four Islamic Jihad Members Arrested in Khartoum

GF221809 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA) — A responsible source at the Interior Ministry today announced that the number of detainees of the Islamic Jihad organization who distributed leaflets calling for the liquidation of some party and political leaders has reached four.

Police Major General Muhammad al-Hasan Yusuf, director of the Central Criminal Intelligence Department, stated that the detainees' activities were confined to the national capital and that a legal case was filed against them in accordance with the penal code and the state security law. He added that the case will be forwarded to the attorney general's chambers shortly to complete the rest of the legal procedures in this regard.

TUNISIA

Defense Minister On 'Continuing Threats' From Libya

LD202050 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The chamber of deputies continue its work today regarding the National Defense Ministry draft budget for 1986. It heard answers from National Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly.

The minister initially concentrated on acquainting the deputies with the plan for comprehensive defense which was approved by the Tunisian Armed Forces Supreme Commander, President Habib Bourguiba, considering it to be the best choice capable of meeting the objectives of defense. He said that the comprehensive defense plan includes five principles: diplomatic defense, economic defense, civil defense, social defense, and the armed people and the Regular Army. Baly explained that diplomatic defense rests upon political choices in Tunisia, including the respect of international legitimacy and cooperation with states, while national defense rests upon a group of measures prepared during peace in order to organize society during war, including guaranteeing the state's internal security and the continuation of ordinary activities. As to economic defense, it takes the needs of defense in all national and regional planes into consideration and aims to work for the achievement of a sound economy and the reconciliation of development objectives with national defense requirements. Social defense requires the citizen's pride in the society to which he belongs and his feeling of the obligations and duties of citizenship which include the defense of the homeland and the participation in the protection of the state and the people's material and moral gains. This requires the creation of a generation believing in the need to protect its country. As to military defense, it is divided into two types: the first concerns the regular forces represented in the loyal sons of Tunis who are volunteers in the ranks of the land, sea, and air forces and their ability to use light and heavy weapons and the equipment necessary for the repulsion and defeat of any aggression. As to the popular forces and the reserves, they basically consist of the reserve units which occasionally [word indistinct] in order to prepare them to implement their duty when tested.

He then talked about the start of the implementation of the comprehensive defense plan and said it has been decided to activate the National Defense Council which brings the ministries of defense, Foreign Affairs, interior, finance, planning, and the economy together in an embodiment of the comprehensive view of defense. He said this council studies the situation and adopts the necessary measures such as giving the necessary instructions of maintaining vigilance, especially in light of the continuing threats from the Libyan regime. On the reconsideration of the national training programs, the minister said that the defense spirit is a deep sentiment in every citizen, adding that it has been decided to include the subject of defense in primary school programs to implant the spirit of defending the homeland in children.

The minister referred to the issue of the provision of advanced equipment and pointed out that this required financial resources. He explained that Tunisia will get an advanced radar network in the coming days to discover any suspicious moves against our country. He added that the Tunisian Army is in a constant state of alert since the treacherous aggression [not further identified] with the assistance of the Libyan regime, against the brave city of Gafsa, because alertness is the basic element of armies.

Following the approval of the National Defense Ministry budget, the chamber addressed a cable to President Habib Bourguiba, Tunisian Armed Forces Supreme Commander.

Envoy to Beijing Conveys Letter from Bourguiba
LD222238 Tunis TAP in French 1340 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Beijing, 21 Dec — Tunisian Ambassador to Beijing, Mr Ridha Bach-Baouab was received on Thursday at Zhingnanhai (old presidential residence) by Tian Jiyun, vice premier of the PRC State Council. The Tunisian diplomat was carrying a message from President Bourguiba to President Li Xiannian, president of the PRC dealing with the development of bilateral cooperation and the consolidation of the friendly relations between the two people and countries.

During the meeting Mr Bach-Baouab reviewed together with the Chinese officials the various activities regarding cooperation between Tunisia and China, and in particular the new flow of trade exchanges based on the system of compensations set up after the official visit by Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Mohamed Mzali to China in October 1984.

Central Committee Ends Session; Bourguiba Comments

LD221320 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Report on Destourian Party Central Committee meeting in Tunis 19-21 December — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the Socialist Destourian Party held a meeting at the party house in Tunis on 19-21 Dec 1985 at the invitation of the great struggler, the president of the party. After hearing the opening statement by brother Mohamed

Mzali, party secretary general, in which he spoke about the political, economic, and social conditions in our country since the last meeting of the Central Committee and referred to the most important national and international events, the central committee, after a lengthy dialogue on the submitted issues, renewed its lasting loyalty to the great struggler, founder of the party, leader of the people, hero of the liberation, builder of the modern state, builder of new Tunisia and liberator of women. [applause]

The Central Committee confirmed its absolute adherence to the party's message, philosophy, and dogma, its school for freedom and democracy and sincere expression of [words indistinct]; the party of national awakening, national pride, national unity, and national dignity; a strong shield for the sovereignty of the state and the dignity of the people, custodian of the nation's fate, and achiever of the nation's aspirations.

In the economic field, the Central Committee recorded with pride the positive results achieved over recent years in the growth of production, the creation of employment, price control, and the realization of investment objectives. The Central Committee also expressed its high appreciation and great pride in the continuing enthusiasm of the great struggle to strengthen supervision in order to guarantee proper conduct and the punishment of those who mismanage the funds of the nation and its gains. [applause]

Concerning the social situation, the Central Committee regretted what has happened to the UGTT [Tunisian General Labor Federation]: the domination by extreme politically dogmatic minorities whose main purpose is to resist the regime; the individualistic behavior serving personal interests and political aspirations, behavior which is backed by regimes and groups hostile to Tunisia; a continuing violation of the statutes of the union, whose principal victims were the Destourians; an unjustified change in the bodies of the organization at all levels; no regard to the circumstances of the international economic crisis and the external political and security challenges.

The Central Committee blessed the operation to correct the trade union march that was carried out by the nationalist free trade unionists of all political hues. It supported the need to give trade union action a new content which takes into consideration the supreme interest of the nation and suits the requirements of development and production and helps to provide the largest number of jobs. The Central Committee noted that the guarantee of unity, strength, and real independence demands that all trade unionists seek to achieve harmony among themselves on the basis of adhering to the statutes of the organization and to its authentic national path.

In the field of foreign policy, the Central Committee praised the international solidarity, popular and official, with Bourguibist Tunisia, in the condemnation of the treacherous Israeli aggression against the sanctity of our soil and sovereignty, a matter which confirmed once again the excellent position that Tunisia occupies at the international level thanks to the great balance achieved by the wise farsighted Bourguibist leadership.

Finally, the Central Committee announced the enlistment of the Destourians and their readiness to die — in the defense of Tunisia's sanctity and independence, the dignity of its sons, and

the strength of its institutions — behind its victorious leaders, the symbol of its pride, his eminence the Great Struggler, President Habib Bourguiba. May God preserve him. May God's peace and mercy be upon him. [applause]

[Bourguiba] I follow with great interest the statement of the Central Committee and I approve of it from the bottom of my heart. [applause] I say to you, I want to devote the remaining years of my life to the elimination of bribery [applause] so that the Tunisian state may be clean [applause] and above suspicion. You have all seen that during the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers I decided to detain someone who mismanaged the state's funds. He is now in prison and at the disposal of Mr Zine Labidine Ben Ali [minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of national security] to interrogate him until he is put on trial.

According to our Constitution there is a separation of power — they do not encroach upon each other. I ordered the arrest of this gentleman in order to put him on trial. The head of state cannot pass judgment — the courts do. The president can only receive petitions for pardon in cases of death sentences. I can pardon him or not; I have no other power. God willing, I will live long [applause] to see Tunisia and its cadres free of any suspicions. The thing that I regret is that when this gentleman was arrested ineffectual interventions took place. Strange interventions from people whom we did not consider would be eager to see this thief continue taking state funds. [sentence as heard]

Thus I am happy with the state of Tunisia in relation to many other countries which are burdened by debt and their efforts to reduce them. We repay our debts immediately and in accordance with the dates in our contracts. I have great hope to see that the great gathering of your committee continues, and that the committee is renewed at the times fixed by the Constitution.

Finally, I tell you that although I have spent half a century of my life in prisons and exile, I have served this state so it may survive after me. Man is only a passer-by in life, but he leaves traces behind — good ones or bad ones.

I conclude my address with the words I said at your recent meeting:

[Bourguiba, in French] My succession is not for tomorrow. [prolonged applause] I am, I am still here [applause; Bourguiba laughs sarcastically]. When I preside over a Cabinet meeting, it is serious. If it makes decisions, it makes the appropriate decisions.

[Bourguiba, in Arabic] I do my duty, and the reward comes from God. Peace and mercy be upon you. [applause]

Mzali Addresses Destourien Central Committee Meeting
LD201852 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The meeting of the party Central Committee, which began yesterday within the framework of its sixth session, will be resumed today. It was opened by party Secretary General

Mohamed Mzali on behalf of the supreme combatant, expressing his satisfaction at the continued progress, which has become characteristic of party life in the various spheres of activity, particularly in the spheres of [word indistinct] youth and students. He hailed the Destourian students who have courageously and committedly consolidated their presence at all Tunisian university institutions. He stressed the need for redoubling efforts to continue the serious work to recover whatever is recoverable of the party strongholds in the university, and strengthening the basis of trust among Destourians in general, alongside the work toward consolidating the party's presence in all sectors through the concentration of the citizens' rallying around their leadership.

Mr Mohamed Mzali noted the government's achievements in striking a balance in its program to maintain the popular and social dimensions of its policy. He also stressed the need for continuing the work toward the extension of the bourguiba regime and the strengthening of the solidarity of Tunisians from all sectors, generations and walks of life, and uniting all Tunisians and all of those who have no essential differences with the party in order to strengthen the national unity, which is the best shield to ensure the safety of Tunisia and strengthen its security and prosperity.

The prime minister explained that the government is required to pursue a number of reforms in the various sectors with the aim of introducing more movement and vitality to economic, social and political life. He explained that the reforms with which we are concerned are necessarily dictated by the development of society, the requirements of the development, and economic pressures.

Mr Mzali underscored the party's eagerness to unite all social sections and strata as the course most suitable, logical and appropriate to the characteristics of the Tunisian people, and to depend on negotiations and dialogue to establish a united trade union organization that embraces all patriotic political affiliations, with a representative leadership based on a sound democratic basis and in accordance with this organization's statute. In this respect he referred to the question of the possibility of finding a solution to the present situation of the General Union of Tunisian workers through the convocation of an extraordinary emergency conference that will produce a leadership in which the Destourians, of course, and the patriots will be represented in a way that reflects the true extent of their presence in the vocational institutions and the workers' base alongside other political tendencies.

Mr Mzali recalled the supreme combatant's directives stated yesterday to the Council of Ministers on the victory in the battle for honesty, discipline, good behavior and the need to strike at those tampering with public funds and the country's interests. The prime minister noted that the government is relentlessly pursuing its efforts to tackle the manifestations of abuse, negligence and abuse of public funds.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Leaves for Visit to India

EA201647 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
0900 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, left for New Delhi today for a one-week visit to India at the invitation of Indian President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

He was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Fiseha Desta, Political Bureau member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee. Present during the send-off were Political Bureau members and alternate members of the WPE Central Committee, ministers, WPE Central Committee members, and members of the Indian Embassy in revolutionary Ethiopia.

On arrival at Bole International Airport, Comrade Mengistu was saluted by the waiting honor guard and the national anthem was sung. Our comrade revolutionary leader then inspected the honor guard. Among the high ranking officials accompanying Comrade Mengistu are comrade Adis Tedla, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Central Planning National Committee; Comrade Haile Yimenu, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of industry; and Comrade Fasika Sidelel, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPE Central Committee.

KENYA

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

EA22351 Nairobi KNA in English 1130 GMT
20 Dec 85

[Text] Nairobi, 20 Dec: The Kenya Government and the Government of the Soviet Socialist Republics today signed a plan of cultural and scientific co-operation agreement between the two countries. The plan is based on the cultural co-operation agreement of 11th May, 1964. The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, signed on behalf of the Kenya Government, while the Soviet ambassador, H.E.V. Ostashko, signed for the Soviet side.

The agreement, which covers the period from 1st January, 1985 [as received] to 31st December, 1986, provides for the following:-

- (a) 40 scholarships for Kenyan students to study in institutes of higher learning in the Soviet Union.
- (b) Ten postgraduate scholarships for Kenyans for studies in scientific fields.
- (c) Ten further postgraduate scholarships for Kenyan graduates

already in the Soviet Union.

(d) Exchange of cultural delegations from both countries to acquaint themselves with cultural life in each other's country.

(e) Exchange of academic delegations consisting of two to three persons from each side to familiarize themselves with the system of education in each other's country.

(f) Promotion of co-operation in the field of sports and facilitation of cultural links and exchange between trade unions, youth, women and other public organizations as well as between the national libraries of the two countries.

Gunfire Reportedly Continues in Kampala

EA221604 Nairobi THE SUNDAY NATION in English
22 Dec 85 p 1

[Article attributed to Edward Kitaka in Kampala, 21 Dec: "Kenya Military Team in Kampala"]

[Excerpts] A member of the Ruling Military Council, Brig Fred Oketcho, has confirmed that an advance party of foreign military personnel, commanded by a Kenyan is due to arrive in Kampala this afternoon to help in the implementation of the peace accord signed last Tuesday in Nairobi between the council and Mr Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA).

Brig Oketcho, who was among the government team that negotiated the agreement in Nairobi said that the small advance-party will be here to determine whether the cease-fire agreed on is taking effect. This group will lay the ground work for a bigger reconnaissance team which will in turn determine the size and logistics of the full observer/monitoring team.

The leader of the group arriving today is also the deputy commander of the whole team, which is expected eventually to comprise Kenyans, Tanzanians and Canadians. Britain has declined to request to participate in the observer monitoring exercise.

Meanwhile, gunfire continued to be heard all around Kampala for the fourth night since the signing of the agreement. Armed men, most of them in army uniform, went around breaking into peoples houses on Friday night and robbing property at gun-point in the citys suburbs.

SOMALIA

Italian Minister, Delegation Depart After Visit

EA202218 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1850 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] Francesco Forte, Italian deputy foreign minister of Italy, and the delegation led by him left the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] today at the end of their visit. Briefing the press at the airport lounge, Francesco Forte said he had fruitful discussions with Somali leaders, which could be a basis for future relations and cooperation between Italy and Somalia. The Italian deputy

minister said his talks with Somali Government officials would speed up the implementation of treaties signed between the two sides last September. Speaking in general about his visit to the SDR, Forte said it would lay a strong foundation for better cooperation between the two countries. He thanked the government of Somalia for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation while in Somalia.

While in the country the Italian deputy foreign minister visited the SDR's Sanag and eastern regions, where Italy is implementing development projects. He also visited a pharmaceutical factory in Mogadishu, which is being built with Italian assistance.

He was seen off by Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, SDR foreign minister, and other senior officials, including the Italian ambassador to the SDR.

TANZANIA

Uganda's Okello Briefs Mwinyi on Peace Accord
EA221333 Dar Es Salaam External Service in English
 1600 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Dar Es Salaam — The Ugandan military leader, General Tito Okello, has expressed gratitude to Tanzania for her support and assistance during peace talks between his government and the NRA [National Resistance Army] in Nairobi, Kenya. The gratitude was in a special message conveyed to president Ali Hassan Mwinyi today by the Ugandan Foreign Minister Mr Olara Otunnu, at State House.

Mr Otunnu, who arrived in Dar Es Salaam today, briefed President Mwinyi on the outcome of the peace agreement reached between the Ugandan Government and the NRA. The Ugandan foreign minister also briefed the president on basic principles facing the people of Uganda in an effort to bring peace and stability in the country after the signing of the agreement.

President Mwinyi assured the Ugandan Government of Tanzania's readiness to participate and assist in any possible way to ensure the success of the Nairobi accord signed on Tuesday [17 December]. He also congratulated Gen Okello for signing the pact, saying he hoped it would restore peace and stability in Uganda and the East African region.

Kenyan Minister Delivers Moi Message to Mwinyi
EA211549 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
 1300 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Dar Es Salaam — President Ali Hassan Mwinyi today received a special message from President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya. The special message was delivered to President Mwinyi by Kenya's Foreign Minister Mr Elijah Mwangale at the State House in Dar Es Salaam. After delivering the message, the Kenyan foreign minister who returned home today, briefed Ndugu Mwinyi on how Kenya assiduously chaired the peace talks between Uganda's military government and the largest opposition group in Uganda, the National Resistance Army. The talks enabled the two concerned parties in the Ugandan crisis to

sign the peace agreement in Nairobi, last Tuesday, 17 December. President Mwinyi praised President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya for his efforts and the patience he displayed throughout the talks which were seeking a peaceful solution in Uganda until the agreement was signed.

Meanwhile, Ugandan Foreign Minister Olara Otunnu, arrived in Dar Es Salaam this afternoon to deliver a special message to president Ali Hassan Mwinyi from Ugandan leader General Tito Okello. At Dar Es Salaam International Airport, Mr Otunnu, who is expected to return home this evening, was received by foreign Minister, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapu.

UGANDA

Leaders Call on Population to Support Peace Agreement
EA202016 Kampala Domestic Service in English
 1910 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council, General Tito Okello Lutwa, has said that the government has worked out plans to improve the peoples' conditions of living and called on the people to cooperate with his ministers, who are determined to make sure that the people of Uganda live a happy life. Speaking at Jinja on the first stage of his tour of eastern and northern Uganda to explain why the Military Council has concluded the peace accord with the fighting forces, the head of state urged all Ugandans to create conditions conducive to the implementation of those plans. He said the peace Ugandans are yearning for does not depend on the gun but the citizens of the country.

He once again called upon Ugandans not to hide antipeace elements in their houses. He asked the people of Uganda to enjoy the fruits of the Nairobi peace agreement and promised to bring them more similar goods things in future. He explained the duties of various security forces in the country. He told them that soldiers are there to deal with external aggression, and police, local administration askaris and chiefs are the ones charged with maintaining internal security.

Turning to the press, Gen Okello Warned that journalists who write things that are likely to create hatred among the people will be locked up by the Military council. He said that the people of Uganda are one regardless of tribe and religion. He condemned any attempts by anyone to think that his or her religion is more important than that of his fellow citizen. He advised Ugandans to stop hatred that might revert into strife.

The chief of the defense forces, Lietenant General Basilio Okello, on behalf of the members of the Military Council urged Ugandans to build one Uganda without recourse to tribe, religion, or political differences. He also cautioned the security forces not to be confused by elements who always benefit from instability.

The acting prime minister and minister of defense, Col Wilson God Toko, appealed to people who have guns to voluntarily surrender them to the authorities and assured them that they will not be prosecuted. The rally was also addressed by other ministers who urged the people to be peaceful. The district commissioner, Jinja, Mr David (Mugunya), in his welcome speech

reported cordial and fraternal understanding and cooperation between the members of the security forces. The people of Jinja pledged to uphold peace and order and never to carry out any acts of revenge in the future.

Later this afternoon the head of state, Gen Tito Okello, addressed another rally at Iganga, where he urged Ugandans to unite and forgive each other in order to build a new (?peace) for Uganda. Speaking to a large cheering crowd at Iganga secondary school, the General appealed for the consolidation of unity and goodwill which was started by the signing of the Nairobi peace agreement. He appealed to all those in possession of illegal arms to surrender them and stop robbing and killing innocent Ugandans. Before addressing the rally, Gen Okello asked his listeners to observe a 3-minute silence in memory of all Ugandans who had died since Uganda achieved independence in 1962.

Further Details

*EA221427 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Report on addresses by General Tito Okello Lutwa, chairman of the Military Council and head of state, to the people of Mbale and Tororo on 21 December]

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council and head of state, General Tito Okello Lutwa, has strongly cautioned government employees against stealing and misusing government property. The head of state was given a standing ovation in Mbale this afternoon when he told a rally on the 2d day of his tour that government employees must put established property entrusted to them, like generators, to proper use for which they are provided. He also urged all the people of Uganda to make sure that [words indistinct] benefit her people. He called upon all those involved in smuggling Uganda's produce to stop it.

Briefing the people of Mbale on this weeks signing of the peace agreement with the National Resistance Movement, the head of state said he does not want to receive reports of violence and bloodshed from any part of the country in the new year. He urged the people of Uganda to stop killing one another like beasts.

He said the members of the Military Council rejected fighting among Ugandans during Obote's rule and will not fight again with Museveni, especially after the Nairobi peace agreement. He asked Ugandans to give full support to the Military Council in the great task of implementing this agreement. He stressed that this should not be by word of mouth but action, so that our children and future generations can live in peace.

The chairman of the Military Council strongly advised the people of Uganda to elect leaders who will not promote differences when the Military Council decides to hand over power to civilians. He said the men and women they elect to lead the country must be those who respect the people of Uganda regardless of their status in society. He cautioned them against electing arrogant men who do not have at heart the interests of the people of Uganda as a whole.

Earlier, the chairman assured the people of Mbale, especially

UPC [Uganda People's Congress] supporters not to be worried about the fall of their government. He said he is even closer to the leader of UPC, Dr Obote, than some of those of the UPC government.

The meeting, which was addressed by ministers, overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting the governments efforts to establish permanent peace in UGANDA.

Earlier, the head of state addressed another rally in Tororo, at which he said the government will work tirelessly to ensure the successful implementation of the Nairobi peace agreement. Gen Okello explained that the peace pact was meant to open a way for peaceful development and provision of essential services, which are very much lacking in Uganda. He said insecurity had brought development projects to a standstill.

Emphasizing that soldiers and civilians are one people, he told them to work together and contribute in their own fields to bring peace and development and build a united Uganda. The general strongly condemned killings of innocent people and warned that this will not be allowed to continue. He added that those criminal elements who kill, hide, and throw the blame on others will soon be discovered.

The people of Tororo expressed their support for the peace agreement. They pledged, through their district commissioner, Mr Simon (Nditi), to fully help the government in implementing the peace (?accord). They further pledged to maintain the peaceful coexistence of the people of Tororo with the neighboring people of Kenya.

In his brief introductory speech, the acting prime minister and defense minister, Colonel Gad Wilson Toko, again echoed his appeal for voluntary surrender of illegal arms. He thanked the chairman and head of state for initiating a peace process by discussion but not by the gun. He urged the security forces to defend the people, not to harass them.

The rally was attended, among others, by the members of the Military Council, ministers, the archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most Reverend Dr Yona Okoth, and senior government officials.

Kampala: Tanzania Accepts Invitation, Monitoring Role *LD221834 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Dec 85*

[Text] The Tanzanian Government has accepted a Ugandan Government invitation to their president, Mr Ali Hasan Mwinyi, to visit Uganda and contribute to the reconnaissance and monitoring observer team which will oversee the implementation of the terms of the peace accord between the Military Council and the National Resistance Army. It has also been confirmed that the British Government will render training and advisory services to the Uganda Government.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Olara Otunnu, who delivered a special message from the head of state, General Tito Okello, to President Mwinyi of Tanzania yesterday, announced this before

leaving for Nairobi this morning to deliver another message to President Moi of Kenya. The minister told newsmen before leaving Entebbe airport that President Mwinyi said he himself and his country are ready to work for peace and unity in Uganda.

In his message to President Mwinyi, Gen Okello expressed deep appreciation to President Mwinyi, the government, and the people of Tanzania, especially former President Julius Nyerere, for the invaluable support they gave towards efforts to find a political solution to Uganda's internal problems. The general stressed that without the assistance of Tanzania it would not have been possible to open a new chapter of peace and Uganda's history.

Present at the meeting at State House, Dar es Salaam, were the first vice president of Tanzania, Mr Joseph Warioba; the deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, Mr Salim Ahmed Salim; the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ben Mkapa; and other senior government officials.

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From UDEAC Summit in Gabon

*AB201830 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] President Paul Biya is back in the nation's capital from Franceville, Gabon, where he participated in the 21st summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central African States. The president returned to the country this afternoon and was welcomed on arrival at the Yaounde airport by the speaker of the National Assembly, members of government, members of the diplomatic corps, and a crosssection of the population in the capital.

CHAD

Habre Comments on Talks Held with Opposition

*AB221027 Ndjamenat Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Excerpts] President Hissain Habre has returned home after attending the 21st summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] held in Franceville, Gabon.

President Hissain Habre took advantage of his stay in Gabon to hold talks with his counterparts on bilateral relations and developments in the political situation in Chad. The head of state also explained to the Congolese president, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the danger that the Libyan military adventure constitutes in Chad. He also met leaders of the opposition currently negotiating in Libreville with the Chadian Government in order to arrive at an agreement for national reconciliation. Let's listen to President Hissain Habre's interview devoted to his conversation with brothers in the opposition.

[Begin Habre recording] My participation in the UDEAC summit enabled me, besides attending the deliberations of the UDEAC itself, to hold talks with fellow heads of states of the UDEAC on a certain number of problems of common interest and notably developments in our country. Thus we did not only discuss issues concerning national reconciliation but also the problem of the occupation of a big part of our territory by the Libyans. I also held discussions with President Sassou-Nguesso and ask him to speed up, as much as possible, the process of the return of Chadian nationals to their country, Chad.

As you rightly said, I met a delegation of the Chadian Democratic Front comprising General Djogo and Brothers Ngangbet Alingue and (Djibril Bramaki) with whom I held discussion in a very fraternal atmosphere; and I think the negotiations currently going on in Libreville — in fact it is my fervent hope and I hope it is your's too — I hope these negotiations will come to a successful end. [end recording]

Chad-Cameroon Commission Communique

*AB221206 Ndjamenat Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 21 Dec 85*

["Joint communique" issued at the end of the 17th session of the Chad-Cameroon Joint Commission held in Ndjamenat from 16 to 21 December — read by unidentified Chadian official]

[Text] The 17th session of the Chad Cameroon Joint Commission was held from 16 to 21 December in Ndjamenat. The delegations of the two countries were led, on the Cameroonian side by His Excellency Mahamat Paba Sale, minister delegate to the minister of foreign affairs, and on the Chadian side by His Excellency Korom Hamed, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. The deliberations took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation which has always marked the excellent relations between the two countries.

The agenda for the session had the following points: political issues, harnessing of water resources in the Logone Basin, the fight against cattle diseases, trade, transport and communication, and cooperation agreements. An analysis of the political section of the commission enabled the two delegations to note that positive actions have been taken by their respective governments to find solutions conforming to recommendations of the Chad-Cameroon Joint Commission which was held in Garoua in September 1983. A special emphasis was laid on the need to expand these consultations and meetings of mutual interest to strengthen relations of good-neighborliness existing between the two countries.

Concerning the development of water resources in the Logone Basin, the two sides recommended to the experts of the two countries to meet as soon as possible to find suitable solutions to the problems connected with the utilization of the water resources of the Logone. On the fight against cattle diseases, the two parties agreed to undertake periodic meetings between their experts in order to harmonize their vaccination programs. Concerning trade, the two parties renewed the list of existing commodities on the agreement in force. As far as transport and communications are concerned, the two parties agreed to seek ways and means likely to improve dispatches from the two countries. On cooperation agreements, the two heads of the delegations signed cooperation agreements in the cultural, scientific, and technical fields and recommended that the treaty of friendly cooperation and good-neighborliness should be signed by higher authorities of the two states.

During their stay, the Cameroonian delegation visited the [SCAP] [expansion unknown] under the (?auspices) of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa. They were highly impressed by it.

The leader of the Cameroonian delegation was received in audience by His Excellency El Hadj Hissain Habre, the head of state, to whom he delivered a message from his brother and friend, His Excellency President Paul Biya. He also held talks with some members of the Chadian Government including notably the deputy secretary general of the government acting for the minister of interior and national education as well as the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

At the end of the deliberations, the Cameroonian delegation expressed its profound gratitude to the head of state, his government and brotherly people of Chad for the fraternal reception and warm hospitality accorded them. The two sides decided to hold the next session of the Chad-Cameroon Joint Commission in 1986 in Yaounde at a date to be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Issued in Ndjamena on 21 December 1985

[Signed] For the Chadian side by His Excellency Korom Hamed, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; for the Cameroonian side by His Excellency Mahamat Paba Sale, minister delegate to the minister of foreign affairs [applause]

GABON

President Bongo Discusses Relations With France, U.S.
PM171140 Paris LE MATIN in French 10 Dec 85 p 10

[Interview with Gabonese President Omar Bongo by Pierre Sambre in Libreville — date not given]

[Excerpt] *LE MATIN*: What do you think of Franco-African summits and their expansion to non-French-speaking countries?

Omar Bongo: The Paris summit is Third Worldist in character. In 1973, under Pompidou, when we set up these summits, the French-speaking African heads of state had several reasons for doing so. They all belonged to the franc area. Most of their students sent to France did not return to the fold after their studies. There were social problems to be solved. They had all these in common. Instead of France dealing with them individually, it was a good thing for us all to get together to discuss them. The circle is now going to be expanded. That does not contribute anything. The English-speaking countries meet in the Commonwealth. The Arabic-speaking countries meet in the Arab League. We Africans all belong to the OAU. We all meet at the OAU and the United Nations. We do not all meet in the Commonwealth or the Arab league. I do not see the usefulness of all meeting at the Franco-African summits.

LE MATIN: What do you think is the present state of Franco-Gabonese relations?

Omar Bongo: They are very good, in that France respects our political options and our choice of society. However, I would like to specify that Gabon and France are free and independent states. Each has its friends. We are not calling France to account. So why talk about a "Washington-Libreville" axis? Is it because I was the first African president to be received by Reagan?

LE MATIN: How do you interpret Francois Mitterrand's warnings on Chad and the Libyan machinations?

Omar Bongo: President Mitterrand has always shown his determination to respect what France has in common with Chad. It is in Chad at the Chadian president's request. But I know Colonel al-Qadhdhafi well. I do not think he will launch new military action in Chad. As a good Muslim, I think he has a

horror of shedding blood. A military victory by any side will not settle anything in Chad. That country would first have to be freed from all foreign presence and each would then have to pledge to have talks with his former enemy. That is what we are doing.

RWANDA

Ruling Party's Congress Opens 20 Dec
EA230706 Kigali Domestic Service in French
1600 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The routine national congress of the National Revolutionary Development Movement [MRND, Rwanda's ruling party] opened at the youth palace at Kimihurura in Kigali this morning. The president of the republic and president-founder of the MRND, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

First of all, the president of the republic reminded delegates of the agenda of the fifth congress — the assessment of achievements since the last congress, held in Kigali in June 1983. He then revealed current and future priorities for our country's development, a policy based on people's peace and unity. He said that in the political arena the government had been trying and would keep on trying to concentrate development efforts on the lowest levels, such as the cell, the sector and the commune.

Turning to financial and economic areas, he said the government had set about ensuring that public funds were managed rationally, that the fiscal code was adhered to, that foreign currency expenditure and the budget were managed properly, and that the import program was improved. In this regard, the government would continue with its austerity policy.

On social affairs, he said the government would go on encouraging rural development. It would continue to seek solutions to the problems of civil servants and young people, while trying to balance population and production.

Referring to the education sector, the head of state pointed out that the problem of education is a major concern for the population. He said that the government would do everything possible for the success of education and to achieve balance in primary and secondary education.

After the opening speech, the delegates heard greetings from friendly parties that have sent delegations to the fifth MRND congress. We heard speeches from Lieutenant Colonel Stanislas Mandi, the Uprona [Burundi ruling party] Central Committee member and minister of the Burundi Presidency in charge of relations with the National Assembly. He conveyed greetings to the MRND founder-president and to the Rwandan people from President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and the Burundi people and wished the fifth MRND congress every success.

The second session, which was held this afternoon, adopted the congress agenda and working program, set up commissions to draft resolutions and recommendations, and approved the minutes of the fourth MRND congress.

ZAIRE

Angolan Deputy Minister Arrives on Visit

AB201930 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 Dec (AFP) — Venancio de Silva Moura, Angolan deputy minister of external relations, arrived in Kinshasa Thursday with a message from Angolan Head of State Eduardo dos Santos for his Zairian counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko. This message concerns bilateral cooperation and falls within the framework of regular consultations, Mr De Moura happily explained.

According to observers, the Angolan minister might also discuss the fate of 44 soldiers, including 40 Cubans, 3 Angolans, and 1 Cameroonian who have been detained in Kinshasa since 1 December following the emergency landing in Zaire of their aircraft which was coming from Angola.

Israeli Army Official Continues Visit

AB221046 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1200 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 Dec (AZAP) — General Likulia Bolongo, secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, in his office on Friday held talks with Brigadier General Uri Sagie, chief instructor and OPS [expansion unknown] of the Israeli Army who has been on visit to Zaire since last Tuesday. The two men expressed satisfaction with the development of military cooperation between the State of Israel and Zaire. During an inspection tour which took him to Kolwezi and Likasi (Shaba Region) and Kibomango (25 km from Kinshasa), Gen Uri Sagie, who is visiting Zaire for the second time, said he was very impressed with the level attained by the young recruits of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ] who are being trained by Israeli instructors.

The quality of cooperation between the two countries, he told the press after his discussions with Likulia Bolongo, is beneficial to the peoples of Zaire and Israel, and for as long as Zaire would want, he felt, his country will continue to give its assistance to the FAZ. Earlier on, Gen Uri Sagie was received by General Eluki Monga Aundu, chief of staff of the FAZ. Under its military cooperation, Israel assists the Special Presidential Brigade and the Kamanyola Division. This meeting took place in the presence of the Israeli ambassador to Zaire, Mr Sarfaty.

Commissioner Appeals to OECD for Financial Aid

AB191535 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Zaire has just appealed to the principal creditor countries that are members of the OECD for assistance. The appeal was made yesterday by First State Commissioner Citizen Kengo wa Dondo during a working luncheon attended by the ambassadors of the OECD member-countries and the members of the Executive Council's Economic Committee. The participants discussed the prospects of the 5-year development plan of 1986-1990. The first state commissioner asked the ambassadors to sensitize their respective governments in order to ensure their participation in Zaire's economic recovery program.

The international conference to be held within the next few months at the request of Head of State Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko will discuss the question of the contribution of Zaire's partners to its economic recovery. In this regard, the World Bank has already announced its contribution for the next three years amounting to \$550 million.

The West German, Belgian, Canadian, French, Italian, and British ambassadors, the U.S. and Japanese charges d'affaires, and the World Bank and EEC representatives in Zaire took part in the luncheon.

BENIN

President Kerekou Receives Cuban Official

AB202050 Parakou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou this morning received in successive audiences at the presidential palace in Cotonou Comrade (Nestor Rodriguez), vice chairman of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation and head of the Cuban delegation which came for the 5th Benin-Cuba intergovernmental session on cooperation, and (Sam Naidou), managing director of the (FM) Company. Comrade (Rodriguez) paid this visit on President Mathieu Kerekou and his people to extend a message of friendship from the Cuban leader and his people. At the end of the audience, he told newsmen his impressions about the meeting he just took part in.

As for (Sam Naidou), the Indian businessman, he told reporters that he went to submit to the head of state some industrial projects his company intends to establish in Benin.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Receives Togo, Niger Foreign Ministers

AB202232 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The comrade chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and president of Burkina Faso this afternoon received at length a delegation comprised of the foreign ministers of the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Togo as well as the secretary general of ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement]. The mission of this delegation falls within the framework of the development of relations of good-neighborliness, frank cooperation, and fruitful cooperation between all the countries in the subregion, at a time when our people are triumphantly facing the adverse effects of the drought and economic crisis.

The president of Burkina Faso once again renewed the Burkinabe revolution's militant political readiness shown many times toward all neighboring countries, for a just solution to problems through consultations and frank and sincere dialogue.

When the delegation was leaving Ouagadougou for Bamako, Mali, the president of Burkina Faso insisted on handing it a new message of peace for his brother, General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the Republic of Mali.

The Burkinabe revolution would always be able to prove that revolution is the highest expression of the will of a people.

The fatherland or death, we will win!

Ouagadougou on Border Tension With Mali

AB211647 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Serge Theophile Balima commentary]

[Text] The press communique issued last night by the office of the president of Burkina Faso, once again shows the will for peace and the sense of friendship that motivates the highest authorities of our country. By receiving the special envoys of the heads of state of Niger and Togo, as well as the secretary general of the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement], the comrade president continues the work of constructive rapprochement between Mali and Burkina even though the situation between the two countries has of late deteriorated.

During the recent general population census exercise, our officials in fact came up against some deliberate obstructions on the part of Malian elements on Burkinabe territory. Such an attitude, which is unfriendly to say the least, is not an isolated case but part of a strategy aimed at saying that Burkinabe should not feel at home in Burkina Faso. On this point, we must make things quite clear: Our sovereignty should be exercised fully and should not be the object of any shameful bargaining. As a legitimate reaction, measures were taken to ensure the protection of our census officials and to exercise our sovereignty on the entire national territory. It means that the situation can become explosive if the will for peace and friendship does not really exist on the other side of the border.

By receiving yesterday the special envoys of heads of state, Comrade Captain Thomas Sankara, through the text of the press communique carried on radio and television, highlighted three conditions in the approach to the situation:

First, the president of Burkina Faso, through his ideal for the African people, first of all expressed his respect for the emissaries, and especially for those who sent them, and more especially their respective peoples.

Secondly, Capt Thomas Sankara, since the advent of the revolution, has proved to be rather open and ready to work toward integration between the Malian and Burkinabe peoples. If under the neocolonial Upper Volta, the entry of Mali into the Franc zone was made impossible, the democratic and popular revolution has made it a factor for rapprochement, by firmly supporting Mali's application to enter the zone, only 43 days after coming into power, without any conditions and without any regrets. What then is more convincing than to willfully decline one's right to a veto so that the will of a brotherly people might be respected.

Thirdly, African unity, of which President Sankara is a staunch supporter, cannot be achieved without the support of the Malian people. These people, right from the beginning, proved to be one of the driving forces of African unity by their role in history. The federation of Mali, the union with Ghana and Guinea are historic proof that these people are artisans of unity.

All these considerations are objectively found in the ideological basis upon which the Democratic and Popular Revolution [RDP]

was founded. War and armed conflicts must by all means be avoided; but we can also be forces to defend ourselves, and we shall defend ourselves. A revolution that cannot defend itself is not a revolution; and if we are forced to come to that, we are able to distinguish the difference between a just war — that which preserves peace, development and the welfare of the people; and an unjust war — that which only serves the interest of a group of manipulated individuals opposed to the people. The comrade president of Burkina Faso's action, which aims at a lasting and positive solution with our Malian brothers, perfectly falls within this analysis. In fact, potentials exist on both sides. One might ask: Who in Bamako is opposed to a frank and direct dialogue? Burkina, on its part, continues to pay homage to heads of state of friendly countries in Africa and outside Africa who undisparingly propose their good offices to create conditions of peace and well-being between the two brotherly peoples. The president of Burkina Faso, on his part, each time he gets a chance, gives the assurance that tomorrow, like yesterday and today, he will remain attentive to any initiatives from friendly countries. Their efforts will never be in vain as far as Burkina Faso is concerned, and our people will be grateful to them. It must be hoped that the friendship that binds the two peoples will overcome all present and future maneuvers of division.

AFP: Troops Ordered Out of Border Area

AB220713 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Tex] Ouagadougou, Dec 22 (AFP) — Burkina Faso has ordered its troops to withdraw from a disputed frontier area with Mali, which had accused its neighbour of occupying four villages and mistreating the inhabitants, an official source said here Saturday.

The source said the withdrawal was in response to appeals by many friendly countries for the dispute to be settled peacefully. Burkina Faso did not covet "a single inch" of territory belonging to its neighbours, the official source said.

Earlier Saturday, acting Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita accused the Burkina troops of having seized the frontier villages of Diounouga, Koundia, Selba and Douna on December 14 during a census in Burkina Faso. They had mistreated and abducted some of the inhabitants and forced many others to flee, he said.

Malian troops were seen heading from Bamako, the Malian capital, to Mopti, a town near the area.

The incident was apparently linked with a long-standing dispute over the border in the reportedly mineral-rich area, the 15 km (10 miles) Agacher Strip running along the frontier. The two countries clashed over the issue in 1975 and 1976 but have since agreed to submit their quarrel to the World Court in The Hague.

The Burkina Government sources said that during the census, officials had met resistance in the four villages, which he said were part of Burkina Faso. Troops had been sent to reaffirm national sovereignty.

He said that Burkina head of state Capt Thomas Sankara had

made a substantial effort to improve relations with Mali since he came to power two years ago.

The source deplored what he said was a campaign of insults by Mali against Capt Sankara's left-leaning regime.

CAPE VERDE

Pereira Proposed as Presidential Candidate

AB201915 Paris AFP in French 1305 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Praia, 20 Dec (AFP) — The National Council of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV, sole party), the highest ruling body between the holding of party congresses, has decided to propose to the People's National Assembly elected after the 7 December elections, to elect Aristides Pereira, the current president, as president of the republic for another 5-year period.

Mr Pereira, 62 years old, has been president of the Republic of Cape Verde since the country's independence in July 1975. He was reelected member of parliament in the last elections as well as Pedro Pires, who has been prime minister since 1975.

While proposing Mr Pereira as candidate, the National Council of the PAICV underscored his "clear-sightedness" and his "uprightness" in the conduct of the destinies of the Cape Verde nation. [Word indistinct] for the presidential elections, has not yet been fixed.

GHANA

Tsikata Cites Togolese 'Campaign Against Ghana'

AB200859 Dakar PANA in English 1730 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Accra, 19 Dec (GNA/PANA) — Ghana said here yesterday that although it wanted to live in peace with all countries, neighbouring Togo has not reciprocated this gesture.

A member of Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defence Council, Capt. Kojo Tsikata told the Senegalese foreign minister, Prof. Ibrahima Fall who delivered a special message from his president to the Ghanaian leader, that Togo had rather been involved in a campaign against Ghana.

Prof. Fall had earlier expressed President Abdou Diouf's concern about strained relations between Ghana and Togo and offered to mediate between them.

Relations between the two neighbouring countries have deteriorated recently after Togo accused Ghana of involvement in a series of bomb explosions that have lately rocked the Togolese capital, Lome. Ghana protested to Togo about unlawful arrests and continued detentions of a number of Ghanaians in that country and unauthorised crossing of Togolese border security personnel into Ghana to arrest its nationals.

Tunisian Minister Arrives With Bourguiba Message

AB211022 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT
21 Dec 85

[Text] The Tunisian foreign minister, Mr (Mahmoud Matsiri), [name and title as heard] has arrived in Ghana with a special message from President Habib Bourguiba to the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings. He told newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport that the message is in connection with the recent joint mediatory message from Flight Lt Rawlings and the leader of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara, to the Tunisian and Libyan leaders on the dispute between their two countries. Mr (Matsiri) said while in the country he would hold talks with the acting secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Kofi Djini, on bilateral relations, trade, economic, and political cooperation, as well as issues of international concern in Africa and other Third World countries.

Message for Rawlings

AB220730 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT
22 Dec 85

[Text] The Tunisian foreign minister, (Mahmoud Matsiri), has delivered a special message from President Habib Bourguiba to the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings. The message was received on behalf of the chairman by a member of the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata, who is responsible for foreign affairs. Its contents were not disclosed.

Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Matsiri said both Ghana and Tunisia need each other and that it is high time they strengthened trade, economic and technical ties for their mutual benefit. He disclosed that his country is considering the importation of made-in-Ghana goods, which he said are of good quality and cheaper than those imported from developed countries. The minister, who is leading a 3-man delegation, is due back home today.

GUINEA

Conte Announces Cabinet Reshuffle, Ministries

HK230552 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Conakry, Dec 23 (AFP) — Guinean head of state Col Lansana Conte reshuffled his cabinet Sunday for the first time since last July's attempted coup, bringing in more civilians and naming a new foreign minister.

He also set up four regional ministries and named four senior ministers to be attached to the presidency.

The ruling Military Committee for National Recovery was reshuffled and cut in size from 20 to 17 members, after seven officers were dropped and only four named to replace them.

The new 31-member cabinet contains only 12 soldiers compared with 21 in the old one of 30 ministers and their deputies. The number of civilians was more than doubled, from nine to 19. The

four ministries of state in the last government were abolished.

Outgoing Minister of State for Planning and Natural Resources Cdr Jean Traore was named foreign minister to replace Capt Facine Toure, who becomes one of the four resident regional ministers, in charge of forestry and based at Nzerekore. The other regional ministers will be handling maritime affairs, middle Guinea and upper Guinea.

Jean-Claude Diallo moves from deputy minister in charge of Guineans abroad to be minister to the presidency in charge of information and culture.

CDR Mohammed Traore, outgoing minister of communications and tourism, was named Guinea's representative at the United Nations in New York.

The other three new ministers to the Presidency were Lt-Col Sory Doumbouya, a former finance minister, Cdr Alpha Oumar Diallo, former deputy minister for livestock and fishing, and Edouard Benjamin. They were to handle defence, interior, and planning and aid affairs, respectively.

Among other new ministers were Bassirou Barry (justice), Lamine Bolivogui (economy and finance), Ousmane Sylla (Natural Resources, energy and environment), Saliou Koumbassa (Education) and Pathe Diallo (health and social affairs).

Composition of CMRN

AB230830 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT
23 Dec 85

[Text] Here is the composition of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN]:

Chairman:

Prigadier General Lansana Conte

Permanent Secretary:

Major Kerfalla Camara

Members of the Executive Committee:

Lieutenant Colonel Sory Doumbouya

Major Mankan Camara

Major Alhousseiny Fofana

Major Jean Traore

Captain Mamadou Balde

Captain Abdourahamane Diallo

Captain Facine Toure

Lieutenant Joseph Gbago Zoumanigui

Members:

Major Abou Camara

Major Kekoura Camara

Major Alpha Oumar Diallo

Major Jean Kolikpe Lama

Major Babacar N'diaye

Major Ousmane Sow

Major Mohamed Traore

Issued in Conakry on 22 December 1985

Signed Brig Gen Lansana Conte

Composition of New Cabinet

*AB230950 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT
23 Dec 85*

[Text] By Ordinance No.321 dated 22 December 1985, the president of the republic orders:

Article 1 — The following persons have been appointed to occupy the underlisted posts as of 22 December 1985:

— Resident regional minister for Guinea maritime [affairs] based in Kindia:

Major Kolipe Lama

— Resident regional minister for Moyenne Guinee [Middle Guinea] based in Labe:

Major Mankan Camara

— Resident regional minister for Haute Guinee [Upper Guinea] based in Kankan:

Captain Mamadou Balde

— Resident regional minister for Guinee forestiere [forestry] based in Nzerekore:

Captain Facine Toure

— Permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Redress with ministerial rank:

Major Kerfalla Camara

Minister delegates:

— Minister delegate to the republic in charge of national defense:

Lieutenant Colonel Sory Doumbouya

— Minister delegate to the republic in charge of the interior and decentralization:

Major Alpha Oumar Diallo

— Minister delegate to the president of the republic for planning and international cooperation:

Edouard Benjamin

— Minister delegate to the president of the republic in charge of information and culture:

Jean-Claude Diallo

Ministers:

— Minister of justice, keeper of the seals:

Bassirou Barry

— Minister of foreign affairs:

Major Jean Traore

— Minister of economy and finance:

Lamine Bolivogui

— Minister of rural development:

Major Alhousseiny Fofana

— Minister of natural resources, energy, and environment:

Dr Ousmane Sylla

— Minister of human resources, industries, and small medium-scale enterprises:

Kemoko Keita

— Minister of equipment and urban development:

Mbaya Sidihe

— Minister of national education:

Saliou Koumbassa

— Minister of health and social affairs:

Dr Pathe Diallo

— Minister of religious affairs:

El Hadj Abdourahamane Ba

Secretaries of state:

— Secretary of state to the president of the republic in charge of security:

Ibrahima Sory Diallo

— Secretary of state to the minister delegate for interior and decentralization in charge of decentralization:

Alassane Conde

— Secretary of state for posts and telecommunications:

Herve Vincent Bangoura

— Secretary of state for youth and sports:

Zainoul Abidine Sanoussi

— Secretary of state to the minister of economy and finance in charge of the public service:

Abou Camara

— Secretary of state to the minister of economy and finance in charge of trade:

Sory Koundianou

— Secretary of state to the minister of rural development in charge of fisheries:

Lieutenant Joseph Gbagbo Zoumanigui

— Secretary of state to the minister of natural resources, energy and environment in charge of water resources and forestry:

Captain Thiana Diallo

— Secretary of state to the minister of equipment and urban development in charge of transportation:

Major Babacar N'diaye

— Secretary of state to the minister of equipment and urban development in charge of public works:

Sekou Menton Camara

— Secretary of state to the minister of national education in charge of higher education and scientific research:

Amadou Tidiani Traore

— Secretary of state to the minister of health and social affairs in charge of social affairs:

Mrs Yedouwa Kourouma

Article 2 — The present ordinance, which comes into effect on the date of its signature, will be recorded and published in official journals on the republic.

Issued in Conakry on 22 December 1985

Signed Brigadier General Lansana Conte

New Provincial, Bank Governors

*AB231020 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT
23 Dec 85*

[Text] Ordinance No.322 dated 22 December 1985. The president of the republic orders:

Article 1 — The following persons have been appointed to occupy the underlisted posts as of 22 December 1985:

Governor of the Central Bank: **Kerfalla Yassane**

Deputy governor of Central Bank: **Leon (Serge)**

Governor of Boke: **Captain Pathe Barry**

Governor of Dubreka: Captain Abdourahmane Diallo

Governor of Farana: Major Ousmane Sow

Permanent representative of Guinea to the United Nations
shorcen in New York: Major Mohamed Traore

General Commissioner for administrative reform: (Mah-
mouna Bangoura)

Article 2 — The present ordinance, which takes effect from the
date of its signature, will be recorded and published in official
journals of the republic.

Issued in Conakry on 22 December 1985

Signed Brigadier General Lansana Conte

MALI

Statement on Border Incident With Burkina Faso

*AB211548 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Mali on
21 December to members of the diplomatic corps in Mali at the
Council of Ministers' Hall in Bamako's Kouliba suburb following
the 14 December incident at Burkina Faso-Mali border; read by
Modibo Keita, acting minister of foreign affairs and interna-
tional cooperation — recorded]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooper-
ation, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali, has
thought it wise to brief you about the serious situation prevailing
at the border between the Republic of Mali and Burkina Faso
since 14 December 1985.

The Government of Burkina Faso informed the Government of
Mali about its decision to undertake a general population census
exercise from 10 to 20 December 1985. The Malian Government,
in a spirit of goodneighborliness, frank and loyal collaboration,
gave instructions to the Malian border authorities to inform the
people who might be moving between the two countries about this
census.

On 14 December 1985, the Burkinabe officials charged with
carrying out the population census exercise, supported by a unit
of the Burkinabe Committee for the Defense of the Revolution
and armed with automatic weapons, penetrated into Malian
territory. These elements were quickly joined by regular units of
the Burkinabe Armed Forces which invaded and occupied the
Malian border villages of Dioulouna, Koundia, Selba and Douna
and at which the flag of Burkina Faso was hoisted. The
Burkinabe military authorities cut off any communication
between these areas and the rest of the Malian territory. The
chief of the village of Dioulouna and other leaders of the occupied
zone, having refused to allow themselves to be counted by foreign
authorities, were maltreated, brutally kidnapped and deported to
Djibo in Burkina Faso. Their homes were intruded and sur-
rounded, while their properties were taken away. This situation

caused a massive movement of Malian people toward Mondoro
and Douentza.

In the face of the persistent and deteriorating situation culminat-
ing in the occupation by the regular Burkinabe Armed Forces
instead of a so-called population census, the Government of Mali
notes a unilateral break in the consultation, a flagrant violation
of the basic rules of goodneighborliness and a deliberate aggres-
sion. The Government of the Republic of Mali, in the face of this
unacceptable situation, has taken all the necessary measures to
insure the security of the people and safeguard the territory's
integrity. Ladies and gentlemen of the diplomatic corps, I thank
you!

Burkina Army in Villages

AB211438 Paris AFP in French 1421 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Bamako, 21 Dec (AFP) — On 14 December the Burkinabe
Army had penetrated into Malian territory and occupied four
border villages, a Malian Government spokesman announced on
Saturday.

The Burkinabe military authorities have cut off all communica-
tions between these areas situated in the southeast of the country
and the rest of the country, the communique read by Modibo
Keita, minister of labor and civil service, acting for the minister
of foreign affairs, stated.

It will be recalled that a border dispute has existed between Mali
and the former Upper Volta for several years. The two sides
agreed to refer this dispute to the International Court of Justice
at The Hague for arbitration.

Troop Movement Reported

AB211836 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Bamako, Dec 21 (AFP) — Armed Forces from Bur-
kina Faso have invaded four Malian border villages, mistreating
and abducting some of their inhabitants and forcing many others
to flee, Mali's Acting Foreign Minister Modibo Keita said today,
amid reports of troop movements in the Malian capital.

Meanwhile reliable sources here said security had been tightened
around Malian military bases. And eyewitnesses said troops had
been seen moving towards Mopti, a town near to the affected
area. The two countries' 20-year-old border dispute concerns the
so-called Agacher strip, a 15-kilometre (10-mile) wide piece of
land running along their present frontier. The two countries,
which are both among the poorest in the world, clashed over the
issue in 1975 and 1976. However, more recently they had agreed
to submit the dispute to the World Court in The Hague.

Diallo on Burkinabe Incident

*AB221447 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1315 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] Right now, the demonstration organized by the militants
of Municipality I is about to end at the People's House. The

militants staged a massive march that took them to the People's House. This spontaneous march was supervised by the political and administrative officials of the Municipality headed by the secretary general, Oumar Coulibaly, member of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC] and minister of state, and by the mayor of Municipality I, Mamadou Dembele, deputy secretary general of the Municipality I Section of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM]. The march was naturally designed to show the unflagging support of the Municipality I militants for the party, the government, and the secretary general of the party, General Moussa Traore, in the face of the situation prevailing at the border between Mali and Burkina Faso. The following motion was read at the function by Mamadou Gada Traore, organizing secretary of the Municipality I UDPM Section:

We, militants of the Municipality I Section of the Democratic Union of Malian People, held an extraordinary session today, Sunday 22 December, and expressed our unwavering support for the party, the government, our leader, General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM, president of the republic and minister of defense in the face of the situation prevailing at the Malian-Burkinabe border.

In the face of the blatant aggression and the thoughtless acts perpetrated against our peaceful compatriots, we, militants of Municipality I, assure you of our determination to assume our responsibilities as citizens and committed militants for the just defense of the territorial integrity of Mali. Through this motion, we express our availability for any possible actions. Mr Secretary General of the party, president of the republic and minister of defense, the Municipality I UDPM Section holds the view that there is a limit to all patience. Long live eternal Mali!

In reply to that motion, Djibril Diallo, executive secretary of the BEC of the UDPM, who was with all the members of the BEC, said that he was speaking on behalf of the secretary general of the party who would have liked to be present personally, but in his capacity as the minister of defense and in view of the prevailing situation, could not leave his post.

We are not suprised at this support march by Municipality I, which has always shown its commitment and mobilization around the party's watchword. On one of your placards, I can read: "Down with slowness of action, passivity, consultation. Long live action!" To this, the secretary further says, I will answer with a proverb: When a lizard climbs on a dignified man, he pushes it aside with contempt and lets small children chase it away.

You must never forget that Mali's history is a long one and that we opposed with fierce military resistance the colonial penetration and that our people are not afraid of war. But we are thoughtful, because only those who are strong are patient and tolerant. In response to thoughtless agitation, Mali displays maturity and serene strength. Right now, as I am talking to you, our armed forces have done their duty. There is no single Burkinabe soldier on our territory. However, do not lose sight of the fact that the Burkinabe people are friends and brothers of the Malian people and we have nothing against them. It is with the stray and thoughtless leaders that we have to deal with. The party urges you to remain faithful to our tradition of hospitality. It

therefore urges you not to do the least harm to the Burkinabe who are living in our country as our guests and who are under protection.

National Assembly Summoned

*AB211756 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[From the public announcement]

[Text] The members of the National Executive Bureau of the UNJM [National Union of Malian Youth] are invited to an extraordinary meeting tomorrow, Sunday 22 December 1985, at 1600 at the Youth House.

The parliamentarians of the National Assembly are summoned to a meeting tomorrow, Sunday 22 December 1985, at 1000 GMT at the National Assembly.

Party Branches Convened

*AB212054 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] All the sections of the Democratic Union of Malian People, National Women's Union of Mali National Youth Union of Mali of the six districts of Bamako are convened to an extraordinary conference of sections tomorrow, Sunday 22 December 1985 at 0900 at the usual meeting places of sectional conferences.

In view of the extreme importance and urgency of the information to be given, the presence of all is necessary.

'Solidarity' Meeting in Bamako

*AB221332 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] Two watchwords are in vogue this morning in Bamako: national solidarity and national consensus with the president of the republic, General Moussa Traore. It was a great mobilization in the capital this morning. All the communities met this morning for a conference, a conference which took the form of a rally and was addressed by the secretaries general of the various UDPM [Democratic Union of Malian People] sections. Crowds of militants participated.

After tracing the development of the border conflict between Mali and Burkina Faso, the UDPM secretaries general reported to the people, militants, and authorities the decision made at the meeting between the Central Executive Bureau and the government. This decision was highly acclaimed with applause and shouting of slogans of support for the president of the republic. Men and women of all ages showed their indignation and declared their readiness to make any sacrifice in support of the secretary general of the party, Gen Moussa Traore.

I must add that for the past 2 hours, militants of Bamako have been going to the People's Palace to reaffirm their solidarity with the party, the government, and the president of the republic, Gen

Moussa Traore. This move, it must be noted, is the expression of national solidarity and national consensus with President Moussa.

Party Sections Proclaim Support

AB221554 *Bamako Domestic Service in French* 1300 GMT
22 Dec 85

[Text] The local sections of the Democratic Party of Malian People, UDPM, the UDPM women's and youth wings, as well as leaders of democratic organizations and a large crowd of Bamako Municipality II held an extraordinary conference this morning. Following the detailed and clear explanations by the section's secretary general on the situation prevailing at the border and the illegal occupation of four Malian villages by the Burkinabe authorities, the Municipality II conference unanimously decided by acclamation to send a motion of support to the secretary general of the party, General Moussa Traore, president of the republic and head of state. This is the content of the motion:

The conference hails the energetic and clear-sighted position taken by Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the party, president of the republic and head of state, on this artificial situation deliberately created by Burkina Faso against the Republic of Mali. It once again pledges to the secretary general of the party its trust and its unwavering and unconditional support for safeguarding the territorial integrity of Mali in honor and dignity.

[Signed] The conference of Municipality II UDPM Section

National Assembly Debates Border

LD221639 *Paris International Service in French*
1245 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Mali and Burkina Faso have come very close to direct confrontation. Yesterday the Bamako authorities spoke of, and I quote: A straightforward aggression on its territory on 14 December by Burkinabe forces.

I propose that we immediately go to Jean-Frederic (Saumon) in the Mali capital.

[Saumon]: The population was alerted yesterday, and troop movements could be noted. The troops were leaving the capital, no doubt in the direction of the border, and communiques were broadcast very late last night on the radio calling for a meeting of all the party's elements, the youth union, the women's union and the workers' union, for this afternoon. This morning the Parliament met in an extraordinary session to debate this matter. No concrete decision was taken. The president of the Parliament Sidiki Diarra [position as heard] whom I was able to meet, explained to us that his country does not want war. Listen to him now:

[Begin recording][Diarra]: We have not taken a decision. We merely expressed regret that this situation has arisen between a brother country and ourselves, given that the Mali people have always been known as a people who have always worked for

peace, in all the measures taken by our party — this peace which we want to preserve between all people of good will, and above all between our country and the countries surrounding us. We know that the Burkinabe people, like the Mali people, have nothing to gain from war, and the National assembly quite simply deplores this situation which has arisen on the border, and the National Assembly hopes that peaceful measures can be taken so that calm is restored — that the positive good neighborliness advocated by our party may win the day and that reason will, of necessity, prevail over the strong feelings.

[Unidentified correspondent] Must we fear war today, Mr President?

[Diarra]: The Mali people will not do anything to cause a war. What I can tell you is that we are not for a war and we will do nothing to cause a war. [end recording]

Meetings Support Regime

AB222219 *Bamako Domestic Service in French* 2015 GMT
22 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The National Executive Bureau of the National Union of Malian Women [UNFM] held an extraordinary meeting this afternoon at 1600 at the headquarters of the UNFM. The meeting was presided over by Mrs Rokia Cisse who briefed militants on the extraordinary meeting of the Central Executive Bureau and the government held in Bamako yesterday morning under the chairmanship of General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the party. The extraordinary meeting related to the situation prevailing at the border with Burkina Faso. The UNFM bureau took the occasion to reiterate its firm support for Gen Moussa Traore, who has spared no effort to promote peace in the world. The chairperson of the UNFM urged the militants to be vigilant.

We must now embark on a campaign of information and education for the people who must at no time decide to deviate from the path of development, Mrs Cisse said in conclusion. The UNFM National Bureau stressed the need to strengthen the national unity. It decided to stage a march tomorrow in support of the secretary general of the party, head of government, General Moussa Traore.

The National Bureau of the National Union of Malian Youth, UNJM, held an extraordinary meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of its secretary general, (?Allassane) Diallo, who is also a member of the Central Executive Bureau.

After an objective analysis of the situation created at the border by the Burkinabe authorities, the UNJM National Bureau said that it stands firmly at the side of Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the party, in the defense of the national territory.

The UNJM, as the spearhead of the Democratic Union of Malian People, reaffirms that its essential preoccupation is the struggle for development; but it is ready to fully assume its responsibility if war is imposed on us by a pseudorevolutionary regime led by paranoiac and thoughtless elements. We call on all UNJM militants for greater mobilization around the party and its sec-

retary general [words indistinct].

Traore Message to Algiers

AB221653 Paris AFP in French 1558 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Bamako, 22 Dec (AFP) — The Bamako Government today announced the withdrawal of all Burkinabe troops from the border area which has been the subject of litigation with the former Upper Volta while a massive mobilization of the people was organized in the Malian capital.

Meanwhile, Djibril Diallo [BEC executive secretary and minister of state for industrial development and tourism] was due to leave Bamako this afternoon for Algiers where he will hand a message from the Malian head of state to President Chadli Benjedid. It is recalled that Algeria is attempting to mediate between the two countries. The Algerian head of state had telephone conversations with Presidents Mouassa Traore and Sankara last night.

Minister Presents 1985-86 Budget to Parliament

AB212133 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Finance and Commerce Minister Dianka Kaba Diakite this morning presented the 1985-86 budget proposals before our parliamentarians. This budget is marked by an increase of nearly 5 percent over that of last year. The budget proposes to collect a total revenue of 57.90 billion CFA francs during the period and a total expenditure of 55.50 billion CFA francs, a surplus revenue of more than 2 billion CFA francs. Other characteristics of the 1985-86 national budget are: the preponderance of revenue from taxation over expenditure on personnel and allocations.

NIGERIA

Lagos Reports Arrest of Coup Officers

AB201704 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] A number of military officers have been arrested for attempting to overthrow the Nigerian Government. The identity and number of persons involved in the plot were not revealed but they are said to cut across all the services and ranks. The minister of defense and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Major General Domkat Bali, told newsmen in Lagos today that one of the reasons which the coup plotters would have advanced was a dissatisfaction with the government's decision not to take the IMF loan. He said those involved were opposed to the cut in the salaries of militarymen, because, according to them, the military was not responsible for the collapse of the national economy.

The coup plotters were also dissatisfied with the government's human rights and open-door policy. Another reason for the plot was the retention of some former public officers in government, as well as the appointment of majors and lieutenant colonels as governors and ministers. Maj Gen Bali said investigations so far had revealed that those involved were recruiting followers and concluding plans for the coup which would have been bloody. He

stated that the plan was to eliminate the head of government and his principal officials in the fashion of the abortive (Dimka)-led coup of February 1976.

While assuring Nigerians that the government was alive to its responsibility of ensuring their safety, the minister declared that all those found to be involved in the abortive plot would be dealt with in accordance with military law.

Answering questions, the minister of information and culture, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Ukpo, said there was no information yet as to the date the plot would have been carried out.

Kaduna Reports Coup Foiled

AB201725 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The Federal Government has reiterated its determination to pursue its laid down policies. Addressing newsmen in Lagos today on an attempted coup to overthrow the government, the minister of defense, Major General Domkat Bali, said a number of officers have been arrested and will be dealt with according to military law. Gen Domkat Bali said the plotters wanted to use (Dimka's) tactics of 1976 to eliminate the head of state and his principal officials and take over the government. The minister stated that they did not take into account the determined will of the people.

Gen Bali said other reasons the plotters have advanced include government's decision to retain some former public officers, [word indistinct] of human rights, involvement of middle-level ranks in public office, and the rejection of the IMF loan. They claim that the military government had no business in pursuing a course of running an open-door policy or upholding fundamental human rights. The plotters say that they do not see any reason for retaining some governors and ministers, and the use of majors and lieutenant colonels as governors or ministers.

Gen Bali explained that when this administration came to power it gave reasons for the change of government, and ever since, he said, when a policy or decision was taken efforts were made to explain the rationale behind such decisions. The minister said this regime does not claim absolute knowledge of all issues, hence its policy of open government and consultation at all levels.

Gen Bali assured the public that government will be alert to its responsibilities to ensure the safety of all citizens.

Lagos Radio Comments

AB211936 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Stephen Ettah news analysis]

[Text] Although the identity of those involved in the abortive coup plot has not been disclosed, what were to be the excuses have been made public. One of these is the IMF loan rejection by the Babangida administration of which the coup plotters are said to be against. When deciding to discontinue negotiations for the

loan with IMF, the government took into consideration the views of the majority of Nigerians on the issue during the 3 months of national debate. And as President Babangida stated, the decision was an (?act) of honor and the essence of democratic patriotism. Since there is absolutely no doubt that that decision (?tallies) with the wishes of the vast majority of Nigerians, any plot against the government based on opposition to that decision would indeed be against the people of this country. It would also mean a support for those foreign interests which for selfish reasons had wanted Nigeria to plunge herself into the IMF loan.

It is interesting that just a few hours after the announcement of the foiling of the coup plot, a British newspaper, the Glasgow *HERALD*, came up with an editorial overtly supporting the coup deal. The paper said, and we quote: The thinking of the coup plotters over the IMF issue is more rational than that of the government. unquote.

Now, Britain must be one of those foreign countries which may not be happy that Nigeria eventually rejected the IMF loan. Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe had come to Lagos a few months ago and argued that Nigeria should take the loan.

Another complaint by the plotters is said to be against the administration's human rights and open door policies. It is difficult to understand why any group of persons who are genuinely out to promote and protect the interest of the country and its people may hold such a universally acclaimed policy against the government. In fact, Nigerians are generally agreed that the most obnoxious thing about the previous regime was its unwillingness to listen to popular opinion, and its denial of basic human rights. Only a self-seeking despot would want to return the nation to such a tyrannical policy.

The abortive coup plotters are also said to be opposed to the cuts in the salaries of military personnel and their reason for this is that the military was not responsible for the collapse of the national economy. This, more than anything else, betrays selfish motives. The salary cuts introduced by the administration are not limited to military personnel. The economic recovery measures affect all Nigerian workers, be they in the public or private sectors, and every Nigerian worker has accepted the salary cuts as part of his contribution to the economic recovery effort. The plot to overthrow the government merely because it is implementing tough but popular measures designed to ensure the economic well-being of the nation cannot be motivated by anything except selfish interests and inordinate ambition.

It should be made clear to all ambitious elements in the armed forces that the primary concern of Nigerians today is the recovery of the country's economy. Incessant change of government

does not help the recovery process. In fact, it worsens the situation, because every violent change of leadership not only retards national development, but also harms foreign perception of the country's political and economic stability. In the circumstance, it becomes very difficult to expect foreign investments to the country.

It must also be made clear that Nigerians have become weary of military coups, particularly when they are not motivated by national interests. Let us give ourselves a respite so that we can all join hands to achieve the desired goals of national unity, peace and stability.

Students Condemn Coup Plot

*AB212258 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] A cross-section of Nigerians have expressed dismay at the abortive attempt to topple the Federal Military Government. In their reaction to the coup attempt announced yesterday, the students of the Universities of Ife and Lagos described it as unpatriotic especially as the Babangida administration was trying to revamp the country's tottering economy. The students pledged to resist any attempt by selfish military officers to turn Nigeria into a banana republic. They wondered why a group of persons should oppose popular government measures such as the rejection of the IMF loan, the posting of (?military) governors and the human rights policy of the present administration.

Some civil servants, traders and legal practitioners who commented on the issue said that the greatest service which Nigerians could render to the nation at this crucial period, was to support the Babangida administration to carry the country through its present social and economic problems.

Paper on Assassination Attempt

*AB221852 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] The plotters of the attempted coup in Nigeria allegedly planned to kill the military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida, had they succeeded. This was revealed by the country's independent newspaper *SUNDAY TRIBUNE*. The paper said the coup plotters had wanted to plant a bomb on the plane of General Babangida and, to carry out this act, they had enlisted the support of senior Air Force officers. Other targets of the plotters were second in command of the Nigerian Armed Forces Ruling Council, Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe and army chief General Sanni Abacha.

ANGOLA

Three Soldiers Killed in Clashes with RSA Forces

*MB210709 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] The ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY, ANGOP, reports three Angolans soldiers have been killed in clashes with the South African Forces inside Angola. The agency says 14 soldiers are also missing. It reports the clashes took place during the week in the Cunene Province bordering Namibia. According to ANGOP, South African Troops with tanks and aircraft support entered Angolan territory of Sunday and received reinforcements on Tuesday from Namibia and the UNITA rebels fighting the Angolan Government.

Further Report

*MB211254 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 21 Dec 85*

[Text] Once again, racist South Africa continues to dangerously develop provocative military actions in the south of the sovereign and independent territory of the People's Republic of Angola, continuously violating the national air space as well as reinforcing its military presence and capability.

Accordingly, since the shooting down of a AN-12 aircraft inside the national territory at 1150 on 25 November by the South African fighter aircraft, we have observed increased movement of both land and air forces in various provinces of southern Angola. In the period between 25 November and 20 December, the People's Republic of Angola has been the target of 11 violations of its air space, 2 of which were carried out last November, resulting in the attack of the above mentioned plane. The remaining nine violations took place during this month, namely in the provinces of Moxico and Cuando Cubango. Meanwhile the following violations of Angola air space took place in the following days and provinces:

At about 1800 on 28 November, South African aircraft overflew the area of (Mucusse) in Moxico Province and at 1400 on (?2) December another South African aircraft overflew the same region.

In Cuando Cubango Province, at 1900 on the same day two planes overflew a position of our armed forces in the area of Cuito Cuanavale (?situated) 52 km to the east of Menongue, the capital of the province.

On 3 December, a Mirage aircraft overflew our air space 15 km to the north of Huila and on 5 December two planes overflew the southern area Baixo Longa and to the north of Cuito Cuanavale.

At 1200 on 10 December, a plane overflew the Mavinga area and Chiume and at 1900 on (?12) December two planes overflew the area of Mavinga.

What is more, on 15 December 1985, South African forces infiltrated into Angola up to two armored battalions and sup-

ported by armoured cars and aircraft, including Puma aircraft under the pretext of the so-called hot pursuit of the heroic fighters of SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people. However, these forces, which are presently found inside our territory, were reinforced on 17 December by three battalions, including one South African, one of the puppet group stationed in Mongua and another Namibian territorial force stationed in Nehone. These reactionary forces are operating in the areas of Monte, Mongua, and Bucuto, about 16.5 km (?19 km) and 13 km from Cub and Merongue committing atrocities sawing death, grief and bereavement among the civilian population.

It is worth underlining that recently, the South African Army has carried out a number of provocative actions in the heroic Cunene Province, which has experienced South African aggression since 1981, which culminated on 2 December with an attack on the border post of Calueque, resulting in the death of 3 fighters of our armed forces and the disappearance of 14 others.

Presently, racist South Africa is keeping along the Angolan southern border two motorized infantry brigades in the region of (Chiede) which at any time it may introduce into our independent sovereign state, thus mounting another large-scale attack against our country.

LESOTHO

Nine Killed in Maseru Attack by Commandos

*MB201608 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1607 GMT
20 Dec 85*

[Text] Maseru, Dec 20 SAPA — The nine people killed in Maseru early today included South African political refugees living in Lesotho and some Lesotho citizens, according to an official announcement over Radio Lesotho today.

The announcement did not give details, but said at this stage it could only be said that the killed included both refugees and Lesotho nationals. The radio added that the killings were carried out by South African commandos using "silent firearms." Nobody in the neighbourhood of the two attacks heard the gunfire.

The radio said one of the dead told a neighbour that his wife had been murdered by the Boers before himself died from gunshot wounds. The announcement added that a person who allegedly laid the trap for the killing at his house had disappeared and the police were searching for him.

The attack at the house where four women and three men died, took place during a Christmas party.

An eye-witness said the front door of the house was open and that people walked in and out of the party. The attackers entered the house through the front door and opened fire with automatic firearms and one of the people killed had been sitting on a sofa eating from a plate.

In the second attack a South African woman and her coloured

husband were shot dead. The woman Miss Jacqueline Quinn came from Nottingham Road, Natal, and was a school teacher in Maseru. Their one-year-old baby girl, Phoenix, is being looked after at the local hospital.

Miss Quinn's parents are on their way to Lesotho to see their daughter, but do not know that she has been killed.

Lesotho's acting foreign minister, Mr David Makoe, said the killing of the nine followed an exchange of a series of diplomatic notes between Pretoria and Maseru over the past week on the position of South African refugees in Lesotho.

He said the South African authorities had alleged that refugees of the African National Congress had planned to attack South Africa over the Christmas holidays from Lesotho.

Mr Makoe strongly denied the accusation and added that Lesotho believed in peaceful consultation and dialogue rather than violence to solve mutual problems.

ANC on 'Armed Struggle'

*MB211126 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] The ANC says the consequence of Friday morning's attack on ANC refugees in Lesotho will be a sharpening of its armed struggle. The ANC says six of its members and three Lesotho nationals died in the two attacks. The ANC is withholding the names of its members until next-of-kin have been notified. Howard Barrell reports from Harare.

[Begin Recording][Barrell] In a statement from Lusaka an ANC spokesman held the South African government responsible for the attacks.

[Unidentified ANC Spokesman] The (?plan) launched by so-called LLA [Lesotho Liberation Army] that it carried out the murder of the nine is no longer relevant to the issue of the identity of the culprit as the LLA is mercenary formation within the SADF.

[Barrell] South African Government Forces had used weapons equipped with silencers in the attacks, the ANC alleged. The ANC also vowed to step up its armed struggle and to kill increasing numbers of government Security Forces. [end recording]

Lesotho Liberation Army Claim

*MB201710 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1709 GMT
20 Dec 85*

[Text] Maseru, Dec 20, SAPA — The Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] has claimed responsibility for today's killing in Maseru of nine people — including a South African refugee and his school-teacher wife.

A person calling himself Mophete Mophete, claiming to be the commander-in-chief of the Lesotho Liberation Army, phoned

SAPA in Johannesburg, saying units of the LLA had carried out this morning's attack on two houses in Maseru.

Seven people were gunned down at a party at a house in Ha Hoocho and a South African refugee and his South African wife, Miss Jackie Quinn, were shot in their beds in Maseru West. Their year-old daughter survived.

"It is the LLA who did the attack," the caller said, "Leabua knows who did it and he should stop pretending otherwise and sneakishly implicating people who are not involved in our war with him."

"We want to state that Leabua knows who his battlefield opponent is, who must be doing these liberatory attacks."

The caller said their target was "officers of Leabua celebrating the festive season."

When asked whether South African refugees were a target, he said "it was a mistake that the woman must die, bullets do go astray."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said in Pretoria tonight it had nothing to add to a statement issued earlier today by the SADF, which denied any connection to the Maseru murders.

Government Repudiates LLA Claim

*MB201959 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1958 GMT
20 Dec 85*

[Text] Maseru, Dec 20, SAPA — The Lesotho Government has repudiated the claim that Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] units were responsible for the killing of nine people — including six members of the African National Congress — in Maseru this morning.

A telephone caller to SAPA earlier this evening claimed the attack — where seven people were shot dead at party, and a refugee and his South African wife in their beds — had been launched by the LLA.

Lesotho's minister of the interior, Mr Desmond Sixishe, said the claim was an attempt by the South African Defence force to "cover up their immoral attack."

"We are not aware that the LLA has white members, Afrikaners, who were seen by eyewitnesses at the scene of the attack," Mr Sixishe said.

"We are also not aware that the LLA has ANC targets. The claim is obviously a camouflage by the South African Defence Force to cover up their immoral attack," Mr Sixishe added.

The ANC in Lusaka said four of the men and two of the women victims were ANC members.

Spokesman Claims Prior Knowledge

*MB211212 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] A Lesotho Government spokesman today dismissed as a pack of lies the claimed report in the South African media that the so-called Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] was responsible for the raid on Maseru 2 nights ago.

The spokesman said that the related claim was a smokescreen intended to camouflage the brutality of the SADF. The spokesman said that as part of the defunct Batsutoland Congress Party [BCP] the LLA had died together with the BCP. What was left of the LLA, the spokesman said, were a bunch of thugs who were harbored by South Africa so that they may be used for acts of brutality and destabilization that were carried out by the South African Government in Lesotho. These thugs were maintained solely as agents of Pretoria, the spokesman said.

The government spokesman said the brutal precision of the operation could not be carried out by anyone else but commandos of the SADF. He added that what further negated the claim was the fact that eyewitnesses actually saw white South African soldiers carry out the murder of nine victims. The Lesotho Government spokesman continued by stating that the Lesotho Government had known that the attack on the ANC refugees had been planned. Information confirming this had been released by a diplomat from a major western power to a senior official of the Lesotho Government.

Government Protests 'Murder'

*MB210633 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
21 Dec 85*

[Text] The Government of Lesotho has sent a strongly worded protest note to the South African Government following the brutal murder of nine South African refugees and Basotho in Maseru early yesterday morning. The murdered people, five women and four men, were shot with guns fitted with silencers at (Ha Hohlo) and Maseru West.

In the protest note the Lesotho Government indicated that in the past few days there had been utterances by senior South African security personnel threatening an invasion of Lesotho. The note further demands an explanation from the South African Government for this brutal attack.

An eyewitness reported that one of the victims, before he died, said that he and his wife had been shot by South African Boers while another eyewitness reaffirmed that he saw South African whites shooting the victims.

The owner of the apartment in which seven of the victims were murdered and who is suspected of having lured the refugees to the party where the victims were killed had disappeared and is being sought by police.

This raid follows a telex message sent to the Lesotho Government by South Africa where South Africa stated that it reserves the right to defend its own territory.

NAMIBIA**SWATF Reports 2 Children Killed by Landmine**

*MB201348 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1344 GMT
20 Dec 85*

[Text] Windhoek, Dec 20, SAPA — Two children died in a landmine blast at Okahao in northern SWA/Namibia, a SWA Territory force spokesman said in Windhoek today.

They were named as Jaiurus Amakwaya, 4, and Lukius Ingo, 6.

The SWATF earlier reported that 19 other children were injured in the explosion yesterday, but the spokesman later said subsequent investigation showed that nobody had been injured in the incident at the remote outpost in the north-western part of the Ovambo-speaking region.

The children were playing in a field when they uncovered a Soviet-manufactured anti-personnel mine which had been buried in the sand.

They were curious about the object and when they approached it for examination, the mine exploded, the SWATF spokesman said.

SOUTH AFRICA**P.W. Botha Letters Pledge To End White Power**

*MB221010 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English
22 Dec 85 pp 1, 2*

[By Brian Pottinger]

[Text] President Botha's administration has unambiguously committed itself to the phasing out of white domination in the country's national politics. The pledge, it is understood, is contained in letters confidentially sent by President Botha to 14 heads of government in the past six weeks. At least three of the governments — Britain, Canada and Germany — have responded. Their observations, it is reported, are "positive".

The substance of the letters, although not the exact content, has been revealed in an important article written by Foreign Minister P.W. Botha which appears in the latest edition of *LEADERSHIP SOUTH AFRICA*.

The presidential letters — their existence was first revealed in the *SUNDAY TIMES* on November 17 — were drafted by senior officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs. The letters are written in a formal but incisive way, which Western diplomatic sources characterise as significantly different from the normally obscure statements on domestic constitutional development emanating from the office of Constitutional Development Minister Chris Heunis.

After setting out the progress made thus far in domestic reform, the president explains the broad parameters within which the Government is aiming to bring about far-reaching change. The

most important aspect, it is understood, is that white domination will be phased out in favour of the protection of minority-group rights.

A central theme of the letters comprises an appeal for Western countries to grant South Africa time to complete its reform process without added external pressures aggravating the situation.

Mr Pik Botha, Foreign Affairs sources confirm, spells out the basic contents of the letter in the *LEADERSHIP* article. The political programme he describes, much of it already unveiled, provides for:

- A united South Africa, a common citizenship for all South Africans, black, white, coloured and Indian, living within the borders of the country and a system of universal franchise within structures chosen by South Africans jointly.

- Full political participation in government in respect of matters of national concern to all communities.

- Acceptance of the principle of power-sharing over national issues subject only to the principle of the protection of minority groups.

- Recognition that white domination will disappear in accordance with the principle that no one community should dominate any other.

- Negotiations over structures of government.

- The spelling out of the fact that the Government will not prescribe who may represent the other communities or what the agenda will be for the negotiations.

The President's letters and Foreign Minister Botha's statements are among the most important contributions yet to the exposition of Government policy. They cap a lengthy and at times tense debate within the Government about how best to proceed with constitutional options.

Security Council: Terrorists Come From Neighbors

*MB201708 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] The State Security Council says it is clear that terrorist elements are continuing to operate from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, and Swaziland, among other countries. It says in a statement issued in Cape Town that these activities are taking place despite representations to the governments of these countries.

More on Statement on Terrorists

*MB201748 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1700 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] The State Security Council says terrorist elements are continuing to operate against this country from a number of

neighboring states. The statement issued after a meeting of the council in Cape Town today says the countries include Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, and Swaziland, and this in spite of repeated representations that their governments must take note of South Africa's grave reservations and increased terrorist activity from their territories.

The State Security Council says serious attention was given to a report by intelligence and security authorities on the increased violence and terror planned and executed from neighboring states, especially the latest incidents in the northern Transvaal.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, reported on the reactions of the governments of some of the neighboring countries to requests that they eliminate ANC activities from their territory. The council considered the attitude adopted by these governments to be unsatisfactory. It felt terrorists were continuing to operate from the states despite representations and despite the abhorrence expressed by the United Nations in its unanimous repudiation of terrorism.

The State Security Council decided that the countries should be urged to realize that if the menace continued, all of southern Africa would be a heavy price to pay. South Africa had a duty to protect its borders and its people by all appropriate means.

Defense Act Gives SADF 'Sweeping New Powers'

*MB201525 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 20 Dec 85*

[Text] Sweeping new powers have been extended to the SADF. Police powers were given to the SADF by regulations in terms of the Defense Act which appeared in the government gazette last week. The measures give soldiers important powers in any part of the country where they are quelling unrest, suppressing terrorism, or maintaining law and order. Under the new laws, soldiers have been given the right to search, seize articles, and in some cases to disperse crowds and detain people.

The new measures have been slammed by the opposition Progressive Federal Party and the lawyers for a human rights group have labeled them a manifestation of panic.

SADF Refuses Comment on Angolan Invasion Claims

*MB220631 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT
22 Dec 85*

[Text] The SADF has refused to comment on new allegations of military involvement in Angola. This follows the most recent claims by the Luanda government that four South African battalions have penetrated 100 km inside Angola's southwestern Cunene Province, with tanks and aircraft in support of rebel UNITA forces. A Defense Force spokesman has refused to confirm or deny the charges. Luanda's allegations of defense force incursions counter earlier UNITA claims of a build-up of Angolan Government troops in the southern part of the country in preparation for an offensive against the rebels which, UNITA said, is now underway.

Police Force Winnie Mandela To Leave Soweto
NC212155 Paris AFP in English 2141 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 21 (AFP) — Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed South African Nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, went missing for several hours today after being forcibly removed from her Soweto home by South African police, but was later said by friends to be "safe".

They said she was staying with friends in Laudium, an Indian suburb near Pretoria.

The friends' statement ended five hours of mystery about her whereabouts after she was forced to leave her house in the sprawling Soweto township outside Johannesburg where she had been illegally staying.

The South African Press Association quoted a witness as saying a riot policeman drew his handgun and pointed it at Mrs. Mandela's neck when she refused to leave her house earlier today.

"They dragged her and she was resisting, by holding onto doors, onto anything she could put her hands onto," the witness reportedly said.

Police strongly denied a gun had been pointed at Mrs. Mandela.

Today's incident came as Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange announced that restrictions on her movements since 1977 were being relaxed.

Police had told her lawyers she was to be taken to the Holiday Inn at the Jan Smuts Airport outside Johannesburg because it was outside the city limits.

Under the revised restrictions she can live anywhere in South Africa except Johannesburg District or nearby Roodepoort.

Soweto, where she had been living for the past three months, is in the Johannesburg District.

She had been defying the banning order since August when her house was burned down in the small Orange Free State town of Brandfort, to which she was confined by the restrictions.

Mr. Le Grange said today she was no longer restricted to Brandfort.

Although she may now attend social gatherings, Mrs. Mandela may not attend political meetings or student gatherings, he said.

Some Restrictions Lifted

MB220518 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis Le Grange, announced in Pretoria yesterday that the restrictions on Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the ANC leader Nelson Mandela, have been relaxed.

In terms of the amendment, Mrs Mandela will no longer be restricted to her home at Brandfort in the [Orange] Free State, and she may now attend social gatherings which are not political meetings or student gatherings. Mrs Mandela will no longer be required to report periodically to police stations.

In terms of the new amendments to her orders, she is prohibited from being in the Johannesburg and Roodepoort magisterial districts. Among other restrictions, Mrs Mandela is prohibited from being on the premises of educational institutions, and she may not distribute publications. Nor may she communicate with anyone whose name appears on the consolidated list.

Mr Le Grange said because Mrs Mandela's name still appeared on the consolidated list, her utterances and writings could not be published or distributed without his permission.

A police spokesman has confirmed in Pretoria that Mrs Mandela was escorted from her home in Soweto to a hotel at Jan Smuts airport, after had been served with the amended restriction order. Her present whereabouts are not known. News agencies have quoted Mrs Mandela's friends as saying that she is in the Indian residential area of Laudium, near Pretoria.

Lawyer Says Winnie Mandela Bruised

MB220923 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Black Activist Winnie Mandela has returned to her Soweto home, in defiance of her banning order. Yesterday Mrs Mandela was forcibly removed from the house where she has been living for 4 months since her house in Brandfort in the Orange Free State was mysteriously petrol-bombed.

Police arrived at her Soweto home yesterday, and are reported to have dragged her out. Mrs Mandela's lawyer, Ismail Ayob, says she sustained bruises and a sprained ankle during the eviction. He says she was taken to the Indian township of Laudium, but during the night returned to Soweto. She now faces arrest for violating government restrictions.

Mrs Mandela To Stand Trial

MB230550 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1632 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Dec 22, SAPA — Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who was arrested today under the Internal Security Act for contravening her restriction order, will appear in court as soon as charges have been formulated against her, said Capt Henry Beck of Police Headquarters, Pretoria.

Earlier today Capt Beck said Mrs Mandela was being charged under the Internal Security Act for contravening her restriction order which prohibited her from returning to Soweto.

It was confirmed later today by Capt Beck that Mrs Mandela is being held at the Krugersdorp police station. "I can't confirm it or deny it. She might be at Krugersdorp," he said. [as received]

Mrs Mandela was apparently taken at gunpoint from her Soweto home yesterday and police dropped her at an airport hotel, just outside the Johannesburg limits.

Mrs Mandela stayed with friends in Pretoria for a few hours and then defiantly returned to her home in Soweto in the early hours of this morning, said family members.

Mrs Mandela's lawyer, Mr Akbar Ayob told reporters after visiting her at the police cells in Krugersdorp that he did not know what the charges would be.

However, police said earlier that Mrs Mandela would be charged with breaking her orders to stay outside Johannesburg and Roodepoort and possibly other offences.

Mr Ayob said he would only know tomorrow under which act she would be charged and whether bail will be granted to her.

He added that Mrs Mandela returned to her home during the night following yesterday's eviction in which she received bruises and sprained her ankle as policeman dragged her out.

State Offered To Pay Expenses

MB230554 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1911 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Dec 22, SAPA — Mrs Winnie Mandela, who was this morning arrested for breaking her banning order, had been told the state would pay expenses incurred by her if she moved from Soweto to comply with the revised terms of her order, SABC-TV news reported tonight, quoting a police spokesman.

The police had also offered pay for her accommodation in a hotel outside the Johannesburg area, the report said.

Black transport staff were reported to have collected money for her to take a train back home.

Mrs Mandela defiantly returned to Soweto this morning, after spending some time with friends in Laudium last night.

Mrs Mandela Fails To Appear in Court

MB231012 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1011 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 23, SAPA — About 50 police and military personnel were in position at the Johannesburg Regional Court this morning as scores of newsmen and spectators waited for the appearance of Mrs Winnie Mandela, held in Soweto yesterday after defying her banning order.

Lawyers said earlier that Mrs Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, was expected to appear in court at 11 am today. By noon, however, she had not been brought into the court.

Some time after 11 am, a court official asked about 70 local and overseas newsmen who had packed the tiny courtroom to leave

so the court could continue hearing other cases.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers and her daughter, Zinzi, told reporters at the scene they had not seen the activist. It was believed a docket had been prepared but it was not known when Mrs Mandela would be brought to court.

About 30 policemen in riot gear stood outside court 15, where she had been expected to appear, while another 15 in conventional police uniforms were also present. A number of military policemen could also be seen.

Miss Zinzi Mandela, who was swamped by newsmen and camera crews when she appeared, said her mother had not been given time to collect her handbag when she was arrested at the weekend.

Mrs Mandela Released, Taken to Clinic

MB231142 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1140 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Dec 23, SAPA — Mrs Winnie Mandela was released without bail after a brief appearance in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court today and was taken almost immediately afterwards to a local clinic by her lawyers.

Mrs Mandela's attorney, Mr A. Ayob, said she was suffering from high blood pressure and an injured ankle.

She was very tired and had to be taken for medical treatment immediately, he said.

Mrs Mandela had appeared in the Johannesburg regional court in connection with an alleged contravention of her banning order.

She had limped while wailing from the cells below court to the dock and her leg was bandaged.

During the brief hearing, the magistrate, Mr H. Brandt, said setting bail for Mrs Mandela would serve no purpose.

The object of bail was to ensure the accused appeared in court, he said.

"The court feels it would serve no purpose to fix bail, because, as Mr Ayob says, money is no object," he said.

The prosecutor, Mr G. Thiaart, earlier said the state had no objection to bail, and suggested an amount of R500.

Mr Ayob argued Mrs Mandela was well known, both nationally and internationally and the court should use its discretion and release her without bail.

He said money for bail was no object.

The magistrate, after warning her to appear in the regional court in Krugersdorp on January 22 next year, asked Mrs Mandela if she spoke English and had understood.

"Your worship, I understand English," she replied.

About 70 spectators and reporters crammed into the courtroom, while cameramen stood on benches outside and craned through the windows.

As the court adjourned, Mrs Mandela, wearing a khaki raincoat, her hair swept back under a black and white scarf, smiled and hugged her daughter, Zinzi.

Representatives from national and international news organisations were present.

Several journalists who were briefly detained yesterday at the Mandela home in Soweto attended.

Photographers and an excited crowd of almost 100 people mobbed Mrs Mandela as she emerged from the door of the court building after her release.

She addressed reporters, but may not be quoted in this country.

The smiling crowd swept Mrs Mandela and her daughter to her attorney's offices, causing a number of short traffic jams.

Photographers scrambled over each other in their haste and members of the crowd chanted "viva, viva" and "Mayibuye" [let it come].

At the offices, the attorney explained Mrs Mandela was ill and he would take her for medical treatment immediately.

Charges against the civil rights leader have not been formulated.

According to court records, charges, if they are formulated, may be framed in terms of Section 56 (1) C of the Internal Security Act, (act 74 of 1982), which relate to the failure to comply with the terms of a banning order.

Bombing in Amanzimtoti Shopping Center Reported

*MB230947 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0946 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 23, SAPA — Police units have rushed to the scene of a bomb blast at a shopping centre in Amanzimtoti in which four people were killed and 15 were injured, according to first reports.

A Pretoria police headquarters spokesman, Lt-Col Vic Haynes, confirmed that a bomb had exploded at the Sanlam Shopping centre, which also contains a number of flats. He said no further details were immediately available.

Police units had rushed to the scene and further reports were expected soon, he said.

The explosion rocked the shopping centre a few minutes after 11am.

President's Office Statement

*MB231523 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1522 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 23, SAPA — The state president's office has expressed its sincere sympathy with the victims of this morning's bomb blast at Amanzimtoti.

In a statement issued in Pretoria, Mr P.W. Botha's office expressed its "sincere sympathy with the relatives of the victims of this morning's terrorist attack in Amanzimtoti, and also wishes the injured ... a speedy recovery."

Three Whites Reported Killed

*MB231115 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1111 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] Durban, Dec 23, SAPA — Three white people, reported to be young children, were killed and at least 14 injured when a bomb tore through Christmas shopping crowds in the busy Amanzimtoti Sanlam Shopping Centre today, the worst terror blast in the greater Durban area.

Police units rushed to the scene of the devastation and policemen with dogs were battling to control the crowds.

Addington Hospital, Durban, was put on immediate alert and was reported to be standing by to receive 20 to 30 casualties. Telephone calls to the Kingsway Hospital in Athlone Park, to which some of the injured were ferried, could not be attended because of the emergency.

Brigadier John van der Westhuizen, head of the Criminal Investigation Division in Port Natal, was soon at the scene and said his information was that three people had died and 14 had been hurt, three of them blacks. Scores of windows in the complex were shattered in the explosion.

Earlier it was believed that at least four people had died. First reports were sketchy and two fatalities were reported: The figure rose to three and then to an unconfirmed four, with a large number of injuries.

It is believed that the explosive device was placed against a wall in the shopping complex.

A Pretoria police headquarters spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Vic Haynes, confirmed that a bomb had exploded at the Sanlam Shopping Centre, which also contains a number of flats. He said no further details were immediately available. Further reports were expected soon.

Police Say 4 Killed

*MB231040 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1035 GMT 23 Dec 85*

[Text] Durban, Dec 23, SAPA — At least four people, including three small children, were reported killed and 20 injured in a bomb blast that ripped through a shop, among Christmas shopping crowds in the busy Amanzimtoti Sanlam Shopping Centre today.

Police units have rushed to the scene of the blast and policeman with dogs were battling to control the crowds.

Addington Hospital, Durban, was put on immediate alert and was reported to be standing by for 20-30 casualties.

A Pretoria police headquarters spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Vic Haynes confirmed that a bomb had exploded at the Sanlam Shopping Centre, which also contains a number of flats. He said no further details were immediately available. Further reports were expected soon, he said.

First reports were sketchy and said that two had been killed. The figure rose to three and then to four, with a large number of injuries.

Two disaster buses were standing by as medical workers moved among the injured. Ambulances and private motor cars were busy ferrying injured people to hospital in Durban and Greenways clinic, Amanzimtoti, within a very short time.

The whole area had been cordoned off as police sift through the wreckage.

Johannesburg holidaymaker Mr Donald Forrest (20) was among the injured. He told reporters that he was inside the centre doing shopping when he heard a loud bang and suddenly realised he had been hit. He has shrapnel wounds in the left leg.

Donna Wilson (15) of Amanzimtoti was going to the beach but decided to do some shopping in the centre. She was badly hurt in the blast and was crying hysterically.

The owner of a grill in the centre was too shocked to speak.

Three young children were reported to be among the dead.

The owner of the Toti Tea Room, Mr D. Nito, said he had been in his shop when he heard the blast and the plate glass and display shelves in his shop began to crumble. Severely shocked, he told how he had seen women and children screaming and lying in pools of blood. He saw three children lying on the ground and was certain that they had been killed.

The bomb appeared to have been placed in a bin between the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY and an ice-cream parlour. Mr Selvin Reddy (27), a hawker, was at his van opposite the centre when the explosion took place. He saw people running and screaming out of the centre: They were covered in blood, which appeared to be pouring from all over their bodies. A lot of windows were shattered in the complex.

Home of Prominent Civil Rights Lawyer Bombed

HK230716 Hong Kong AFP in English
0639 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 23 (Afp) — The home of a prominent South African civil rights lawyer was petrol-bombed early today in the Indian residential area of Lenasia, but there were no injuries, police said.

The bomb, which was thrown through a living room window of the home of Priscilla Jana, caused only minor damage, they said.

A second petrol bomb was thrown at the home in Lenasia of Mahomed Momoniat, a director of the Moslem World League and of an Islamic centre in Johannesburg and a former political detainee. The bomb caused only slight damage, police said.

Mrs Jana has represented many anti-apartheid activists, including a number of leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) charged by authorities with treason.

Bomb Defused at Durban Indian House of Delegates

MB210853 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Police in Durban have defused a bomb placed in Malgate House, the administration center for the Indian House of Delegates. Mike Robertson reports.

[Robertson] A clerk found the explosive device attached to a clock on the eighth floor of the building. The bomb was believed to have been timed to off at 1530 on Thursday. The minister of housing and local government, Mr Baldeo Doekie, and the deputy minister of the environment, Mr S.P. Naicker, along with 500 officials and employees were in the building at the time. Mr Doekie said they were told to vacate the building. Police said later they found an explosive device. Security officials, he said, were investigating how those responsible for placing the bomb had managed to breach the tight security cordon around Malgate House. Both ministers and staff are anxious to find out what had gone wrong.

Policeman Dismissed

MB220949 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0900 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] A police officer has been dismissed over a fake bomb at the House of Delegates in Durban. The officer apparently placed the fake bomb at his own initiative in the House of Delegates as part of a bomb awareness program. He did not, however, appear to obtain permission from authorities or warn anybody in the Durban building. It was reported on Friday night that an explosive device strong enough to blow away half the building was found on the eighth floor. The device was then apparently dismantled by the bomb squad, proving to be an empty parcel with no explosives.